Irish Pub Songs For The 5-String Banjo Volume 1

by Kelly J. Griner

Mondas Publishing

713 Westchester Lane

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

www.BanjoMania.net

ISBN# 978-0-578-05863-4
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Forward

I am excited to share with you my experiences with Kelly Griner. I have known Kelly for 8 years now. He is a dear friend, and one of the best entertainers that I have encountered. I greatly admire his showmanship. Together we have toured throughout the United States and performed at some of the most prestigious venues and festivals that a musician would want to perform at. I have learned many things from Kelly. Aside from the countless songs and fiddle tunes that he taught me, in particular I have learned much about showmanship from Kelly. He is able to read a crowd within the first few minutes and then call out songs that end the night with the crowd on their feet cheering loudly for more.

When I think of how Kelly teaches I am reminded of the first tour that I went on with his band. I got the call that his band needed a guitar player. I rehearsed maybe two times with the band. Next thing I knew I was in the van on tour with the band. For the first shows there were a few songs that Kelly turned to me and said, "okay…we haven't done this before…key of G, 4/4 time…let's go…1, 2, 3, 4." Although I made many mistakes that first tour he continued to encourage me by continuing to explain the songs in simple, easy to understand ways. At times, Kelly would sing the melody off mic during instrumental solos or call out chords when I struggled. With Kelly's confidence in me and his continued support I eventually learned all the songs that I needed to. I ended up playing both guitar and bass for some time with that band. Finally, I picked up the mandolin and learned the repertoire on yet another instrument. This was another experience where Kelly encouraged me by easing me into it. He started by having me play lead for the songs that I knew the best. At that time mandolin was a new instrument to me. Kelly would quietly play rhythm while I learned. He even learned to play mandolin to help me along. Many times I can remember Kelly telling me useful tips from some book or online article he read. Now, playing mandolin is a passion of mine. Through playing with Kelly I have become proficient at reading notes on mandolin and have gone onto playing jazz, blues, gospel, and bluegrass as well as Irish music.

In closing I can say that you will learn a lot from this book. Kelly has so much experience through learning from the masters, performing and teaching. He has a unique way of presenting these songs in such a way that it is easy to learn them. I have seen Kelly teach someone with no musical experience how to play within minutes. Often books like this can be confusing or too cluttered with details that are not always useful. Kelly solves this by presenting this material with a very simple approach. He always stresses the fact that you should have fun with this music no matter what level you are at. There is always a place for you to join in and play along.

- *Joel Simpson*, May 2010.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank God Almighty for the blessings that I have received and the ladies in my life for believing this could be done: Sandy, Amber and Mom, the past, present and future members of **Another Pint** for helping me to perform all over this great land and to those readers who are kind enough to carry on the songs and traditions of days gone by.

- ***Kelly Griner***, May 2010.

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Introduction

This book started as a response to a need that I once had when I first began playing the banjo. I was performing throughout the Midwest as the founding member of **Another Pint** and I was desperate to perform my favorite Celtic songs on the banjo. I was unable to find any tablature that fit my needs. Everywhere I looked I could only find songs tabbed out in the Key of G or if it was tabbed in C or D, it was with an alternate tuning.

There are easier ways to play these tunes in the Keys of C and D, but I have found that it took me too long to retune my banjo to Double C or Double D tuning. The advantages of these alternate tunings is that you can find the melody notes much easier and can play even more notes in the keys. The problems that I encountered while performing was that I am always jumping from one key to the next whenever inspiration hit me. One song would be in the key of G and then I would be off on another immediately in the key of D or C. Being able to play folk banjo meant that I had to find a way to quickly jump from one key to the next without stopping to retune or change banjos in the middle of a set. By all means, if you like Double C or Double D tuning, have fun and enjoy the music. Use every tool at your disposal to have fun!

I am hoping that readers won't learn the tabs in this book by rote, but use the fact that many are tabbed in the key of G, C and D to learn the scales in those keys and use other techniques to make the songs and tunes their own.

Take a look at the tunes and notice the differences in the Key of G to the Keys of D and C. Once you learn a couple of songs you should be able to adapt the knowledge to other songs. You will also find that there are many similarities in the Keys of D and C and you can move variations of these chords to play "up the neck" in other keys.

The tablature was written without ornamentation, such as slides, rests, pull-offs, multiple pull-offs, multiple hammer-ons, etc except when necessary. Add any ornamentation that makes the song sound better to you and to those listening to you.

Add whatever you want to the tablature and allow the songs to live and breathe as you progress and your own personal style evolves.

- ***Kelly Griner***, May 2010.

Techniques in the book

I wrote this book using the assumption that anyone trying to use it, would be familiar with the basic “Bump-dit-ty” frailing strum used in frailing the banjo.

First and foremost, I am a Folk Banjo player and I wrote these tabs for others that want to sing and play Folk Songs. I have endeavored to make this tablature as easy as possible. I have eliminated what most would consider “advanced techniques”. I have made a concerted effort to make the melody lines as easy as possible for the novice frailer. You will notice in going through these tablatures that I have only added “hammer-ons” and “pull-offs” to fill out the melody. There are many techniques such as multiple hammer-ons, pull-offs, drop thumbing and double thumbing that can change these arrangements of simple melody into an outstanding piece of music.

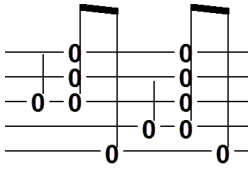
If you are new to the idea of frailing banjo, there are a plethora of websites and books on the market that teach the basic frailing strum. In frailing banjo, the index or middle finger strikes a note, the fingers brush across the strings and the thumb strikes the 5th string. I have found that there are plenty of frailing or clawhammer banjo players in many areas of world that love to show others the nature of the strum. Use the internet and search for frailing or clawhammer Banjo Instruction and you will find many teachers and videos available to give you the basics. I have written this book for novice frailing banjo players who have mastered the frailing strum and have been playing around 6 to 12 months.

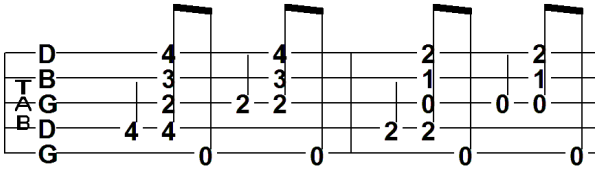
Because I have tabbed all of these songs in Open G tuning, you will need to practice using a light touch on the fifth sting when playing in the Key of D. If you strike the fifth string very forcefully while performing the songs in the Key of D, it will cause a very discordant sound. This is because the fifth string is tuned to G and does not fit into the chordal pattern of D. If you are new or you have a hard time learning to use a light touch, you can also retune the fifth string to A so that it will fit in with the songs in D.

The chord symbols above the tablatures were put in to show you the chord that the melody comes from. If you are singing the song and the tablature shows you an A chord that starts on the 5th fret: you would want to use the A chord you are more familiar with:

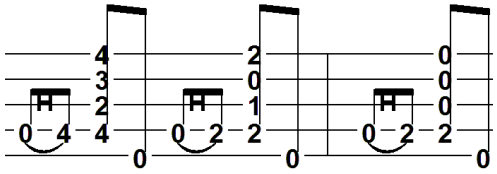
Use this technique with any chord that is written above the third fret and you will be able to quickly sing the song in comfort.

The most common element is a full measure of the “Bump-dit-ty” frailing strum in the Keys of G, C and D.

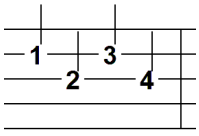
The Key of G looks like this: 

The Key of D and C look like this: 

The second most common element is using a hammer-on to break up the first note of the strum which looks like this:

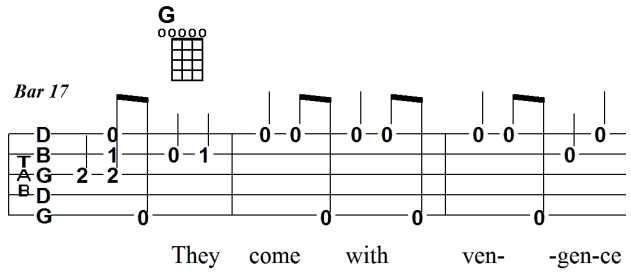


The third most common element is a run of four Quarter notes which look like this:

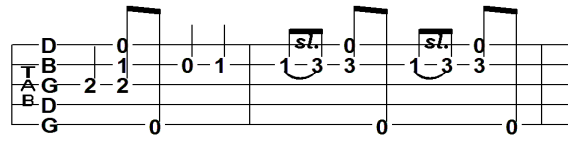


Because the tablature is devoid of ornamentation, you are free to add some of your own to change the tab from a straight, almost lifeless melody line, into a dynamic presentation of your own.

To illustrate the ornamentation possible within the tablature, take a look at the 17th measure or bar of “Roddy McCorley”:



With a simple change you can change dynamics within the song by adding two slides on the first string to create a feeling of tension:



Try out this technique and others using a process of elimination to see what sounds the best to you.

Am, Bm and Dm Chords

You will find while trying to perform some of the songs that the melody notes seem out of reach while fingering the Am, Bm and Dm chords. The trick on the Am and Bm chords is to use your ring finger to hold down the 3rd and 4th strings. This will allow you to use your pinky finger to reach the melody notes. On the Dm chord, it is just a matter of stretching your pinky finger to the 5th fret.

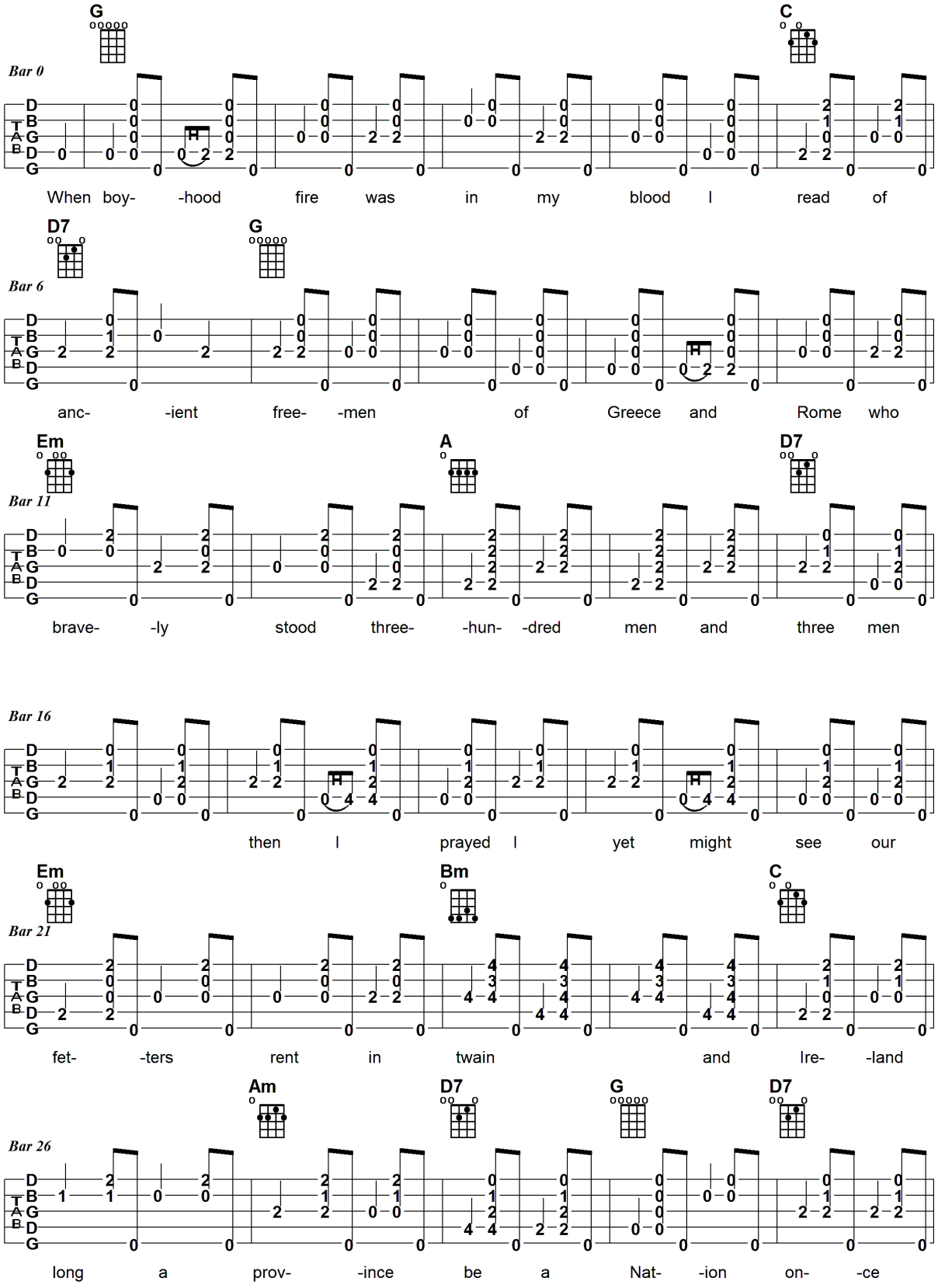
Every tab has room from improvements and I hope to hear some of yours soon!

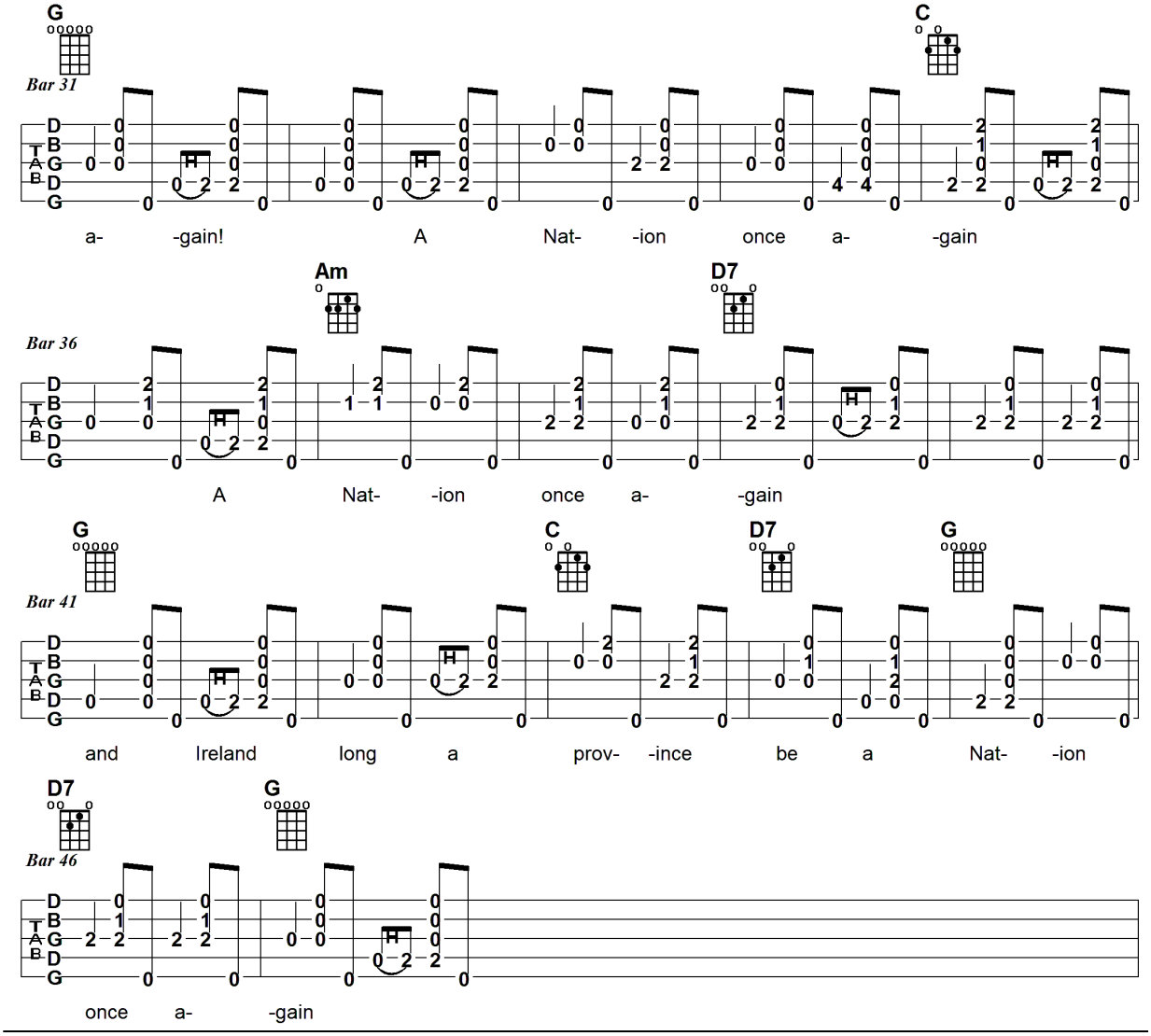
Another Pint

A Nation Once Again

4/4 Key of G

One of the most patriotic songs about Ireland ever written.





And from that time, through wildest woe, That hope has shown a far light,
Nor could love's brightest summer glow Outshine that solemn starlight;
It seemed to watch above my head In forum, field and fame,
Its angel voice sang round my bed, A Nation once again.

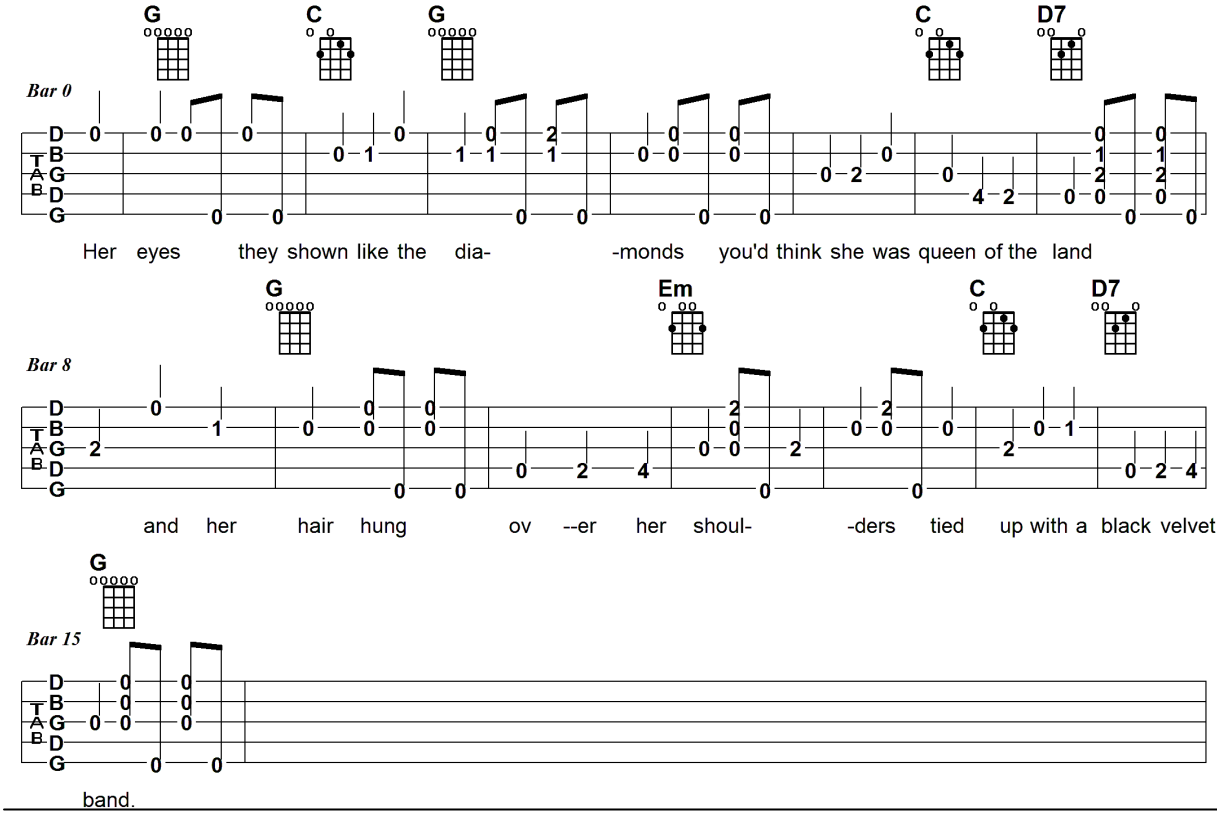
It whisper'd too, that freedom's ark, And service high and holy,
Would be profaned by feeling dark And passions vain or lowly;
For, Freedom comes from God's right hand, And needs a godly train;
And righteous men must make our land A nation once again.

So as I grew from boy to man I bent me to my bidding
The spirit of each selfish plan And cruel passions ridding
For thus I hoped some day to aid Oh, can such hope be vain?
When my dear country shall be made A nation once again.

Black Velvet Band

3/4 Key of G

The most beautiful song about Deportation and Prostitution ever written.



In a neat little town they call Belfast, apprenticed to trade I was bound,
And many an hour's sweet happiness, have I spent in that neat little town.
A sad misfortune came over me, which caused me to stray from the land,
Far away from me friends and relations, betrayed by the black velvet band.

As I went strolling down Broadway not meaning to go very far
When I met with a fickle some damsel she was selling her trades at the bar
When a watch she took from her pocket and placed it right into my hand
And the law came in put me in prison, bad luck to her black velvet band.

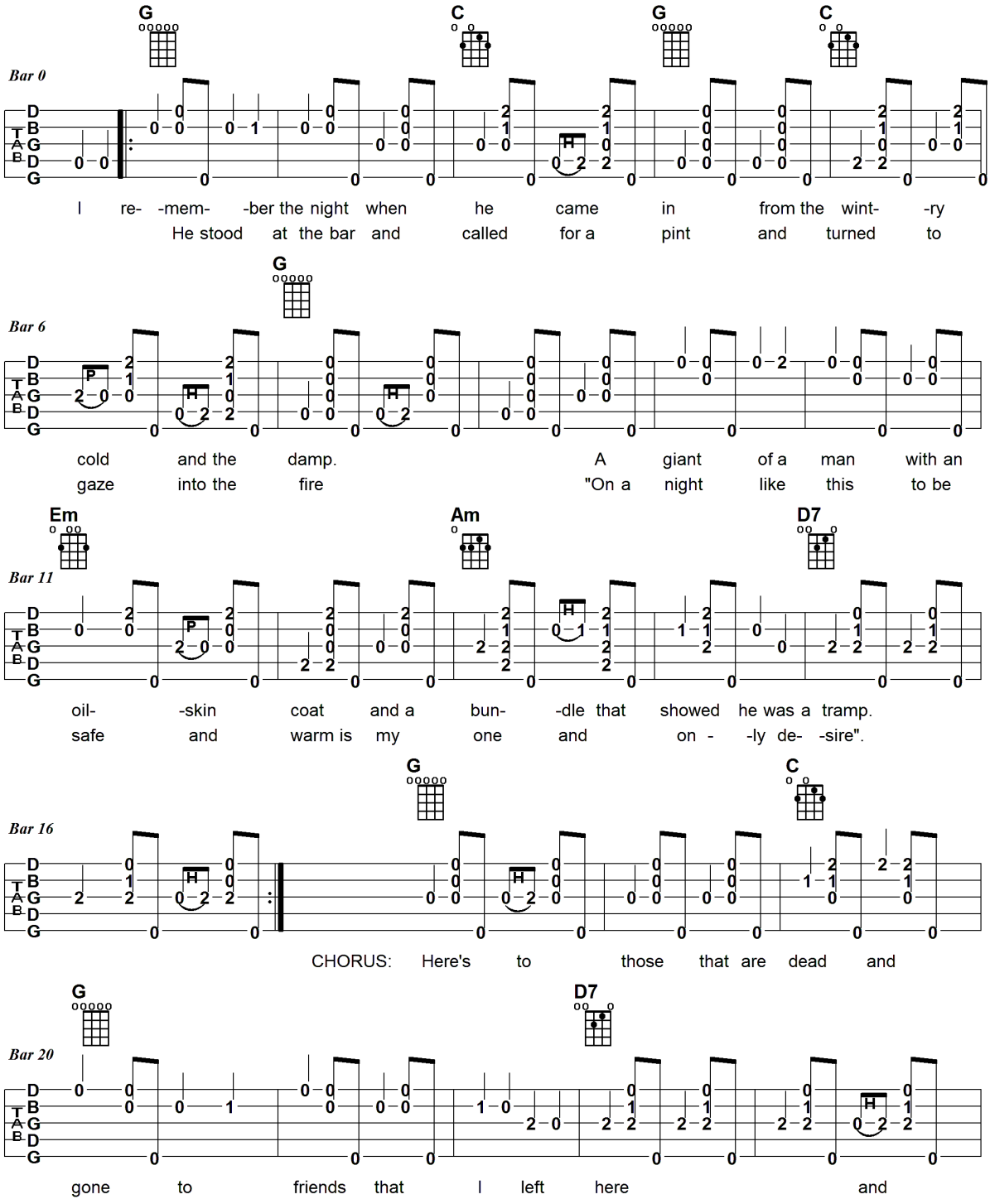
Next morning before judge and the jury, for trial I had to appear
The judge he says “Young fellow the case against you is quite clear.
And seven long years is your sentence, you’re going to Van Damien’s land
Far away from your friends and relations, Betrayed by the black velvet band."

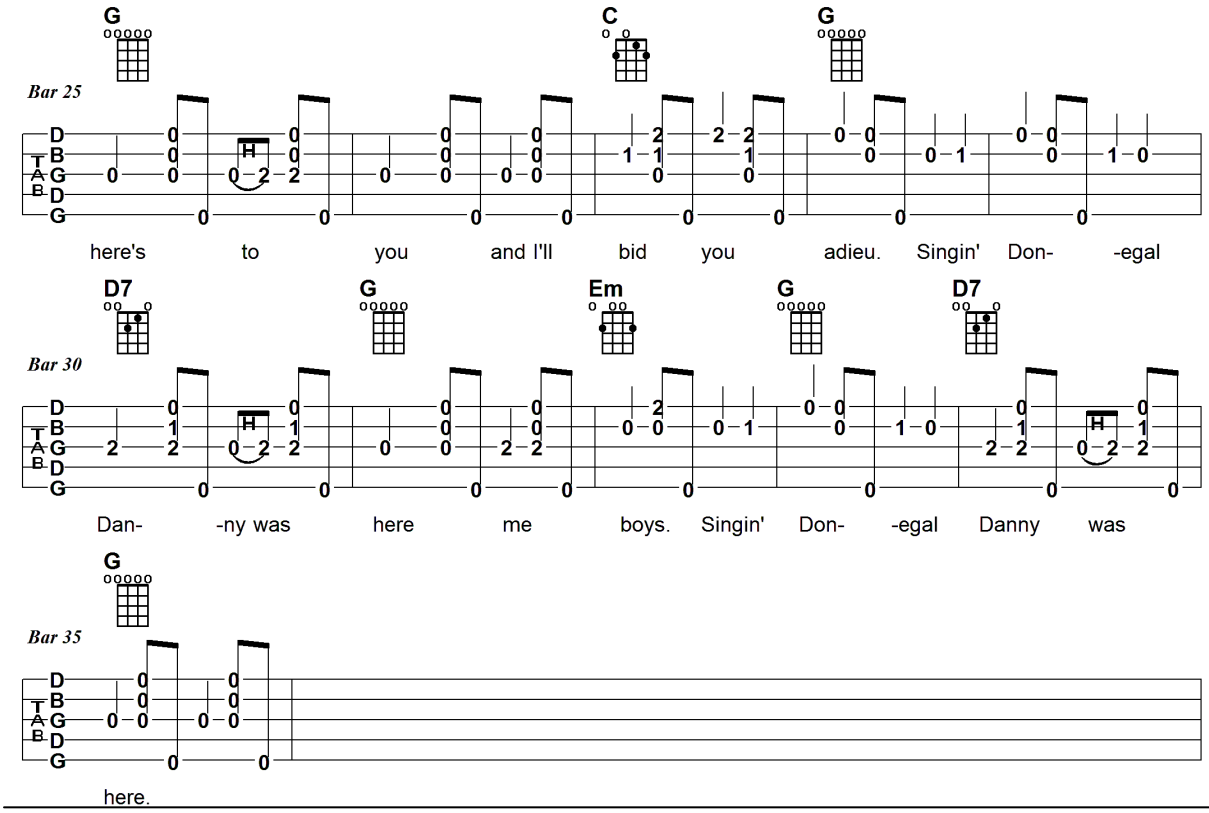
So come all you jolly young fellows, a warning take by me,
When you are out on the liquor, me lads, beware of the pretty colleens.
They'll feed you with strong drink, me lads,'till you are unable to stand,
And the very first thing that you know me lads, you've landed in Van Diemen’s Land.

Donegal Danny

4/4 Key of G

Everything you need in a good sea song: A ship, a sinking and someone becomes a bum!


G
C
G
C
Bar 0
I re- -mem- -ber the night when he came in from the wint- -ry
He stood at the bar and called for a pint and turned to
G
Bar 6
cold and the damp. A giant of a man with an
gaze into the fire "On a night like this to be
Em
Am
D7
Bar 11
oil- -skin coat and a bun- -dle that showed he was a tramp.
safe and warm is my one and on - -ly de- -sire".
G
C
Bar 16
CHORUS: Here's to those that are dead and
G
D7
Bar 20
gone to friends that I left here and



Then in a voice that was hushed and low he said: listen I'll tell you a tale
how a man of the sea became a man of the road and never more will set sail
I've fished out of Howth and Killybegs, Ardglass and Baltimore
But the cruel sea has beaten me and I'll end me days on the shore

One fateful night in the wind and the rain we set sail from Killybeys town,
there were five of us from sweet Donegal and one from County Down.
We were fishermen who worked the sea and never counted the cost.
But I never thought'ere that night was done that my fine friends would all be lost

Then the storm it broke and drove the boat to the rocks about ten miles from shore.
As we fought the tide we hoped inside to see our homes once more
Than we struck a rock and holed the bow and all of us knew that she'd go down
So we jumped right into the icy sea and prayed to God we wouldn't drown

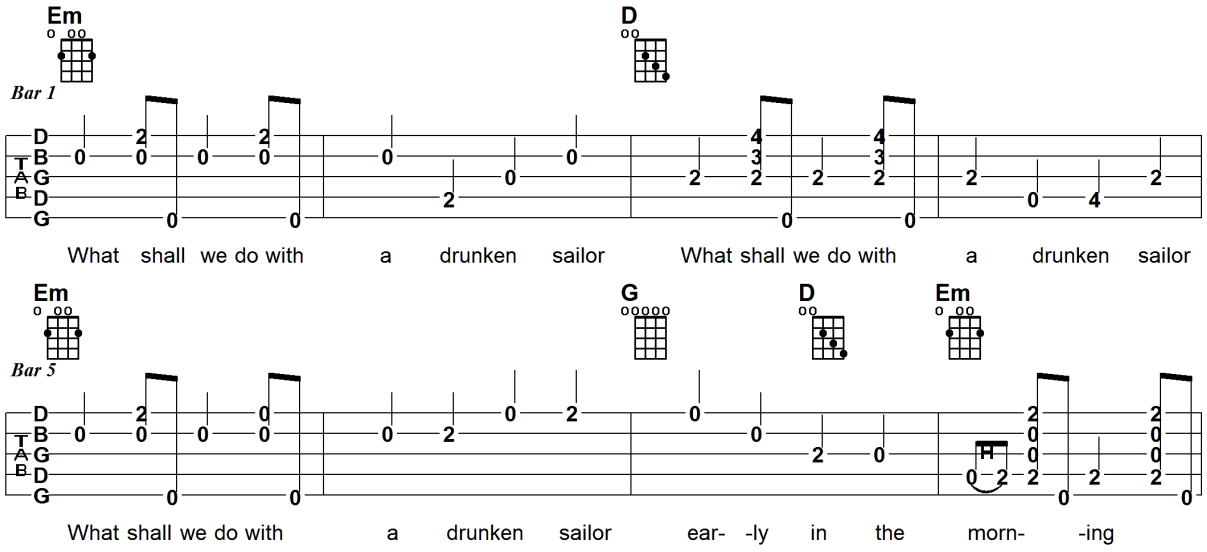
But the raging sea was rising still as we struck out for the land
And she fought with all her crualty to claim that brilliant band
By St John's point in the early dawn I dragged myself to the shore
And I cursed the sea for what she'd done and vowed to sail her never more

Ever since that night I've been on the road travelling and trying to forget
That awful night I lost all my friends, I see their faces yet
And often at night when the sea is high and the the rain tearing at me skin
I hear the cries of drowning men floating on the wind

Drunken Sailor

4/4 Key of G

Everyone loves to sing along to this one!


Em
D
Bar 1
What shall we do with a drunken sailor What shall we do with a drunken sailor
Em
G
D
Em
Bar 5
What shall we do with a drunken sailor ear- -ly in the morn- -ing

---

Put ‘em in a long boat till he’s sober(x3)
Earl-lie in the morning

Give ‘em a hair of the dog that bit him(x3)
Earl-lie in the morning

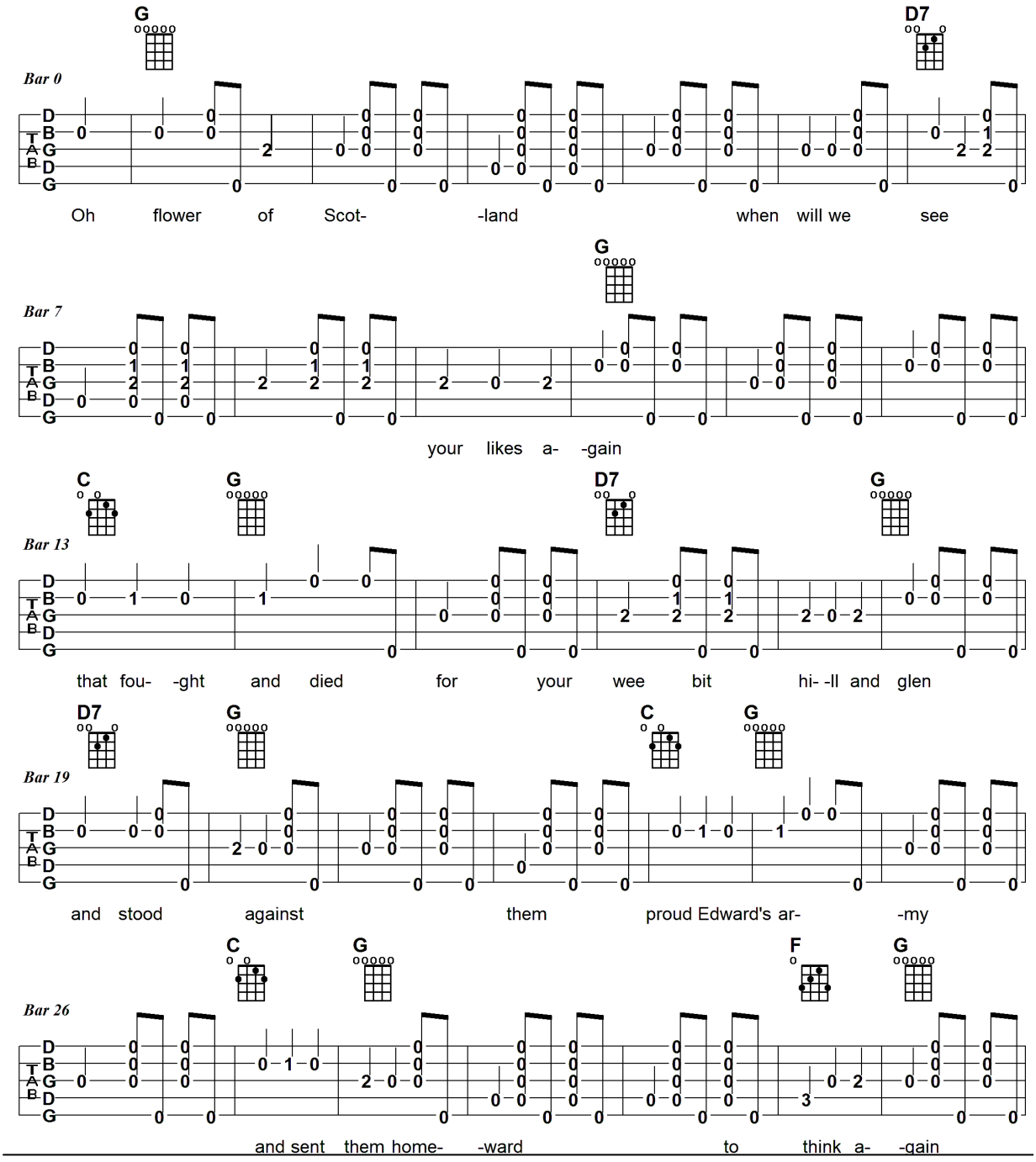
Shave his belly with a rusty razor(x3)
Earlie in the morning

That’s what we’ll do with a drunken sailor(x3)
Earl-lie in the morning

Flower of Scotland

3/4 Key of G

A Banjo and Fiddle can make this a lament, a Banjo and Tinwhistle can easily make this defiant.



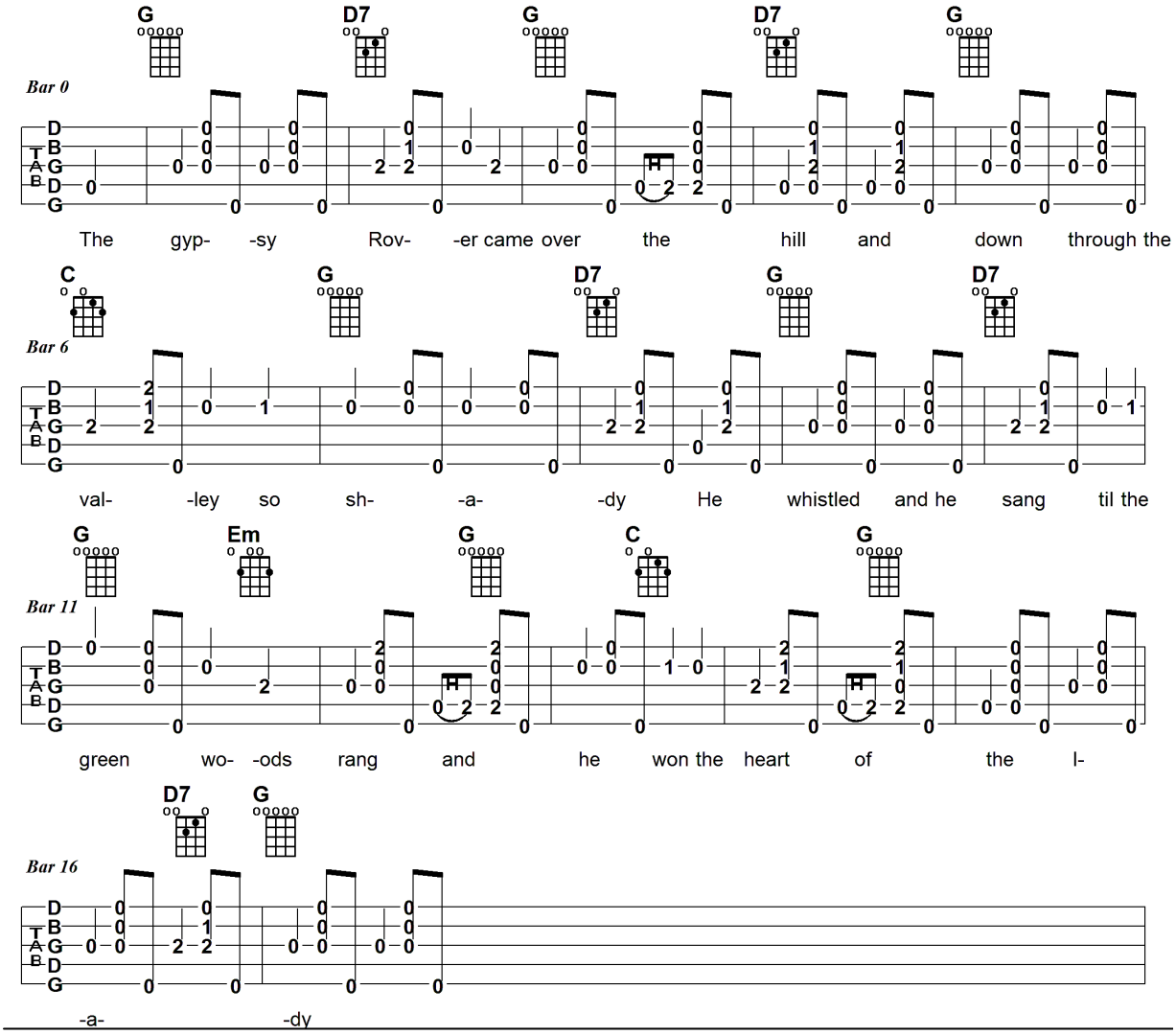
The hills are bare now and autumn leaves lie thick and still o'er land that is lost now
Which those so dearly held that stood against him proud Edward's army
And sent him homeward to think again

Those days are past now and in the past they must remain, but we can still rise now
And be the nation again that stood against him proud Edward's army
and sent him homeward to think again.

The Gypsy Rover

4/4 Key of G

Otherwise known as the Whistling Gypsy Rover, this tale is told in many songs.


G D7 G D7 G
Bar 0
The gyp- -sy Rov- -er came over the hill and down through the
C G D7 G D7
Bar 6
val- -ley so sh- -a- -dy He whistled and he sang til the
G Em G C G
Bar 11
green wo- -ods rang and he won the heart of the l-
D7 G
Bar 16
-a- -dy

Chorus:

Ah-de-do, ah-de-do-da-day, Ah-de-do, ah-de-da-ay
He whistled and he sang 'til the greenwoods rang, and he won the heart of a lady.

She left her father's castle gates. She left her own fine lover
She left her servants and her state to follow the gypsy rover.

Her father saddled up his fastest steed and roamed the valleys all over
Sought his daughter at great speed and the whistling gypsy rover.

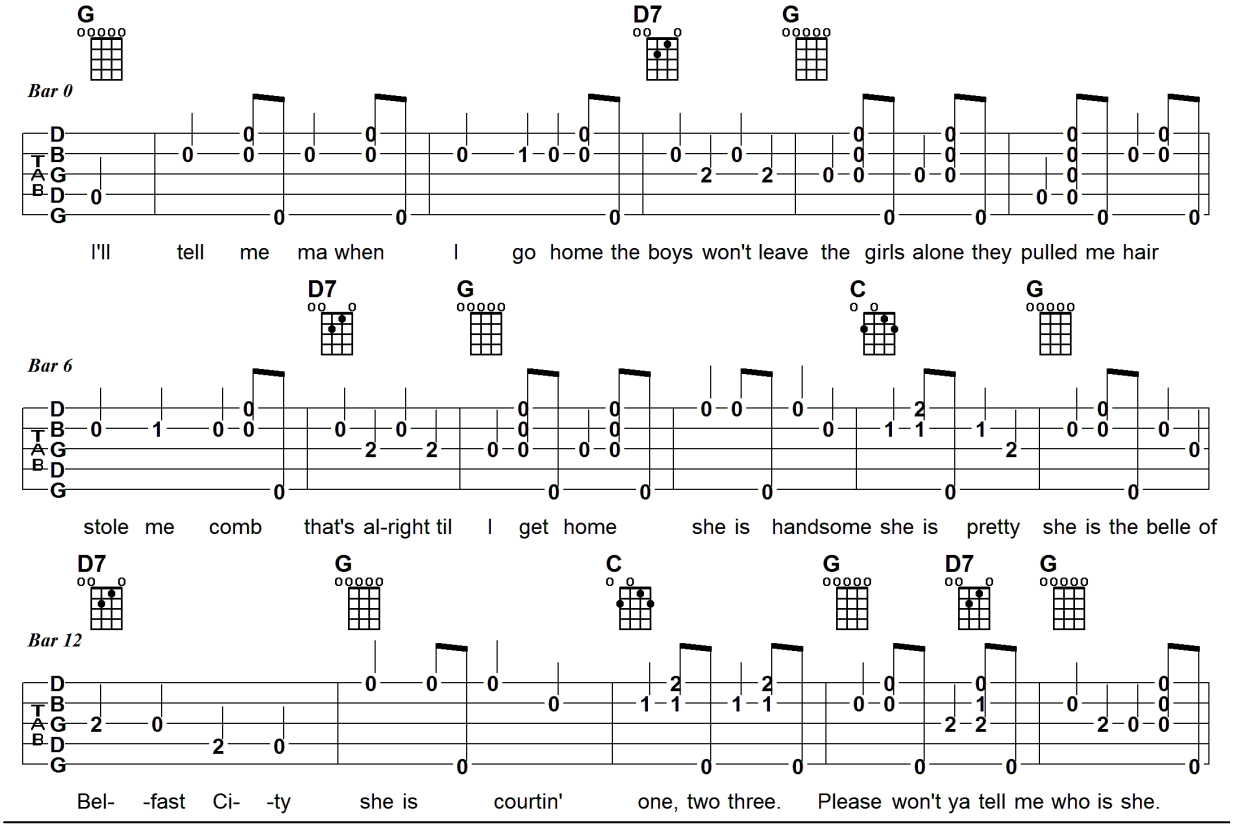
He came at last to a mansion fine, down by the river Claydee
And there was music and there was wine, for the gypsy and his lady.

"He is no gypsy, my father" she said "But lord of these lands all over,
And I shall stay 'til my dying day With my whistling gypsy rover."

I'll Tell Me Ma

4/4 Key of G

Children stopped singing this song once the Folksingers took it over.


G D7 G
Bar 0
I'll tell me ma when I go home the boys won't leave the girls alone they pulled me hair
D7 G C G
Bar 6
stole me comb that's al-right til I get home she is handsome she is pretty she is the belle of
D7 G C G D7 G
Bar 12
Bel- -fast Ci- -ty she is courtin' one, two three. Please won't ya tell me who is she.

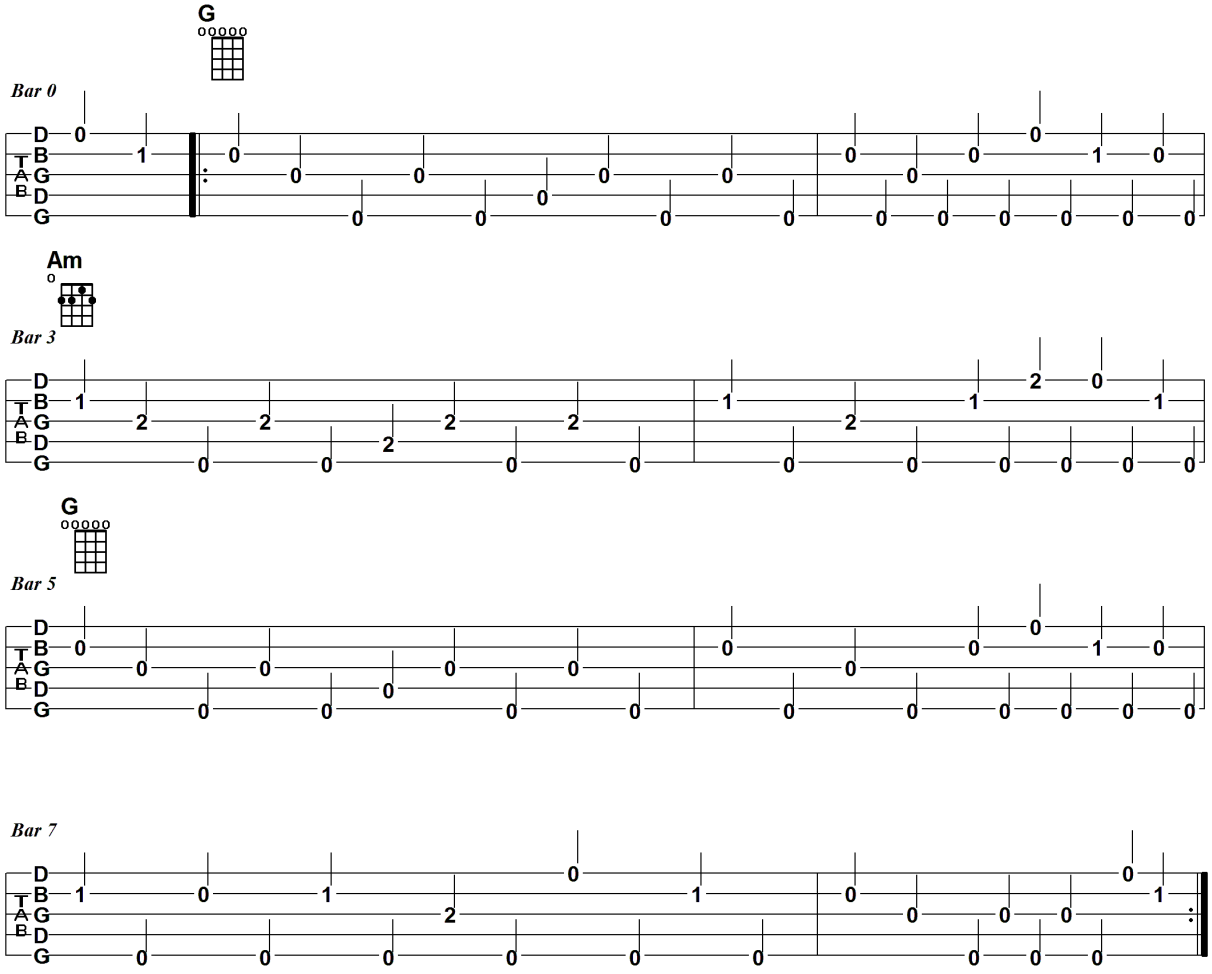
Albert Mooney says he loves her, All the boys are fightin' for her,
They knock at the door and they ring at the bell, Saying Hello me true love, are you well?
Out she comes, white as snow, Rings on her fingers, bells on her toes,
Ould Johnny Morrissey says she'll die, If she doesn't get the fella with the rovin' eye.

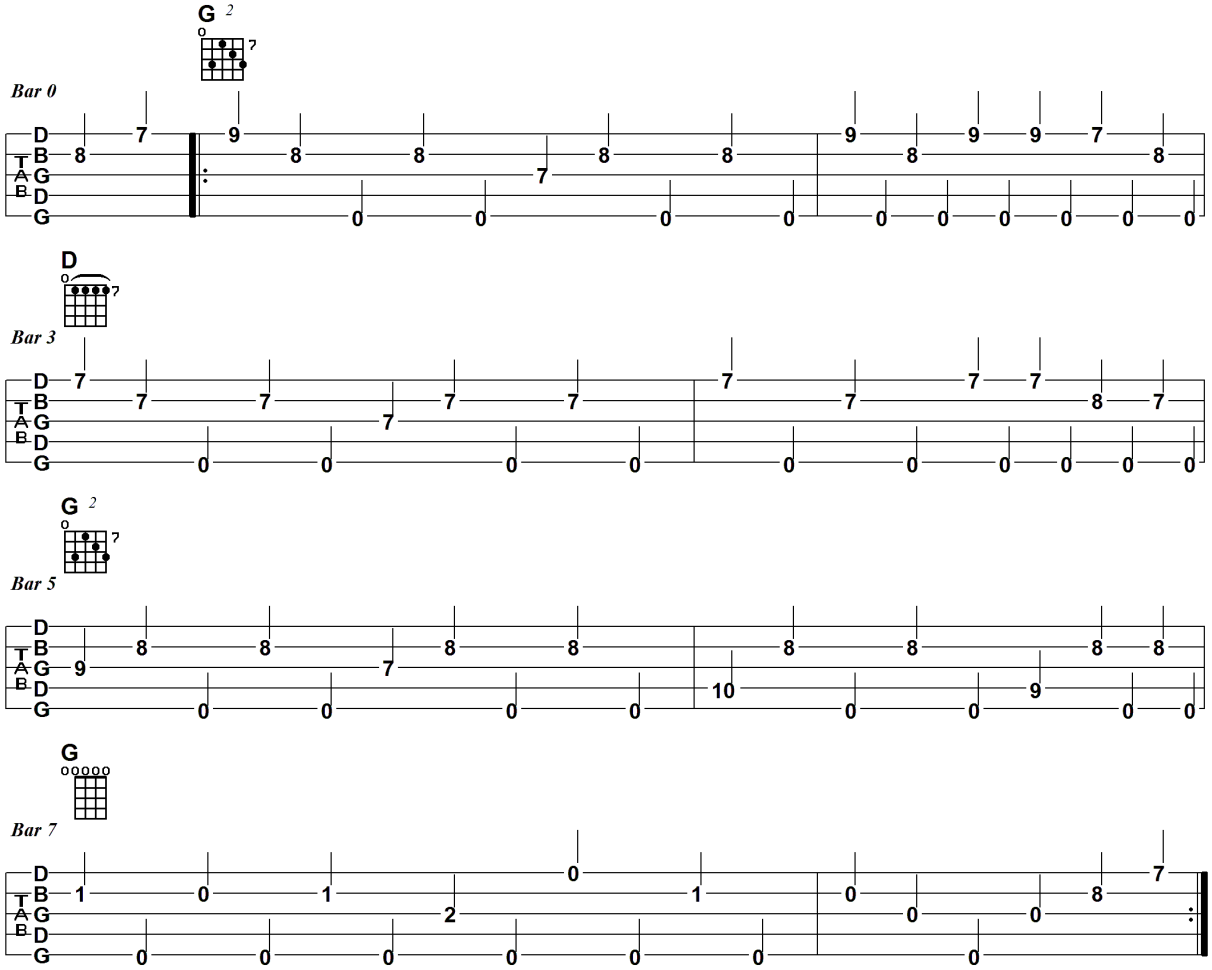
Let the wind and the rain and the hail blow high, And the snow come travellin' through the sky,
She's as sweet as apple pie, She'll get her own lad by and by.
When she gets a lad of her own, She won't tell her ma when she gets home.
Let them all come as they will, For it's Albert Mooney she loves still.

Irish Washerwoman

6/8 Key of G

This tune is almost as abused as Danny Boy! Play it with conviction!

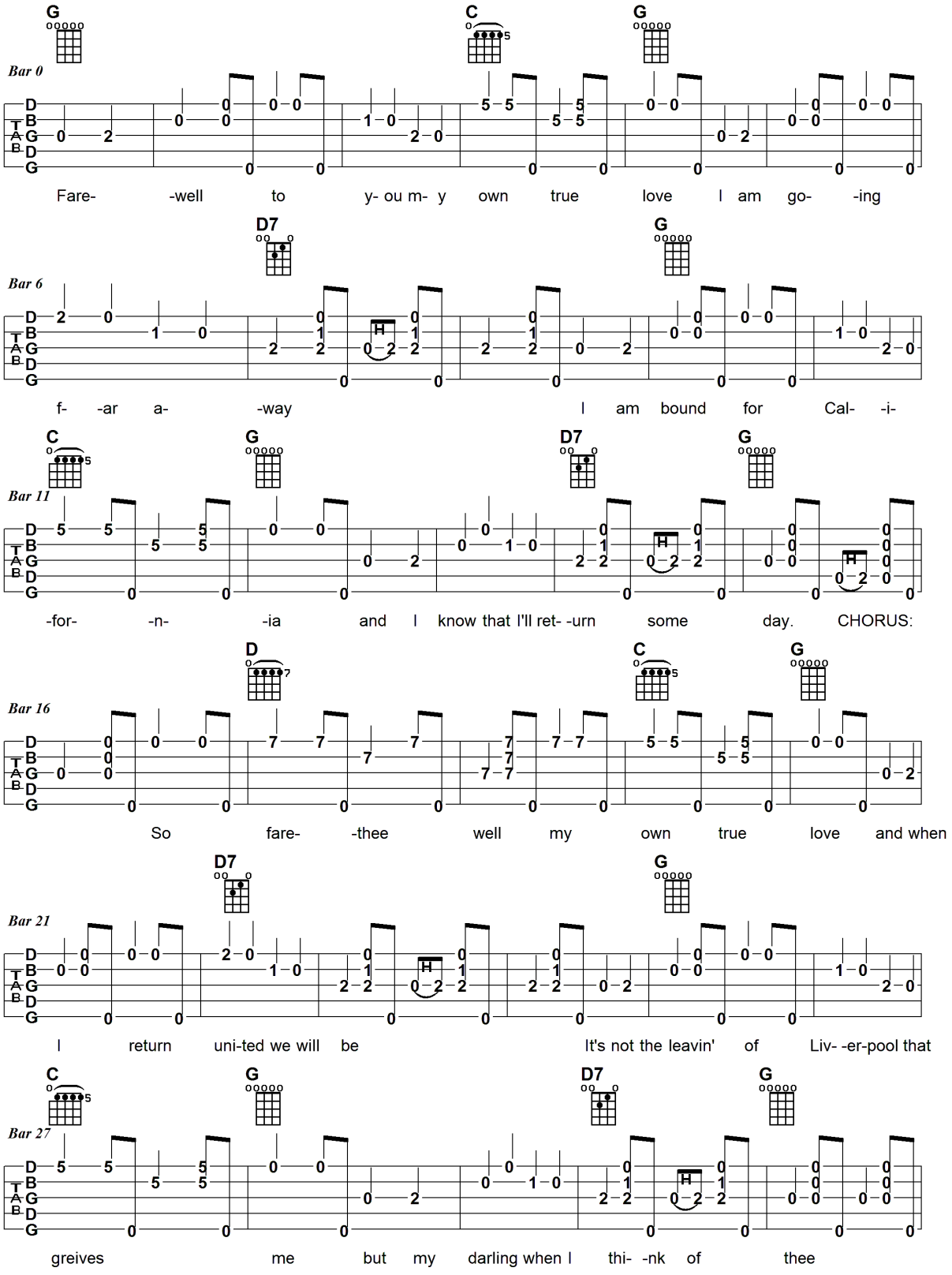



G 2
Bar 0
D
Bar 3
G 2
Bar 5
G
Bar 7

The Leaving of Liverpool

4/4 Key of G

Written during the folk revival of the 1960's, this song captures the mood of days gone bye.


G C G
Bar 0
Fare- -well to y- ou m- y own true love I am go- -ing
D7 G
Bar 6
f- -ar a- -way I am bound for Cal- -i-
C G D7 G
Bar 11
-for- -n- -ia and I know that I'll ret- -urn some day. CHORUS:
D C G
Bar 16
So fare- -thee well my own true love and when
D7 G
Bar 21
I return uni-ted we will be It's not the leavin' of Liv- -er-pool that
C G D7 G
Bar 27
greives me but my darling when I thi- -nk of thee

I have slipped on a Yankee ship
Davey Crockett is her name,
And Burgess is her Captain,
And they say that she's a floating hell.

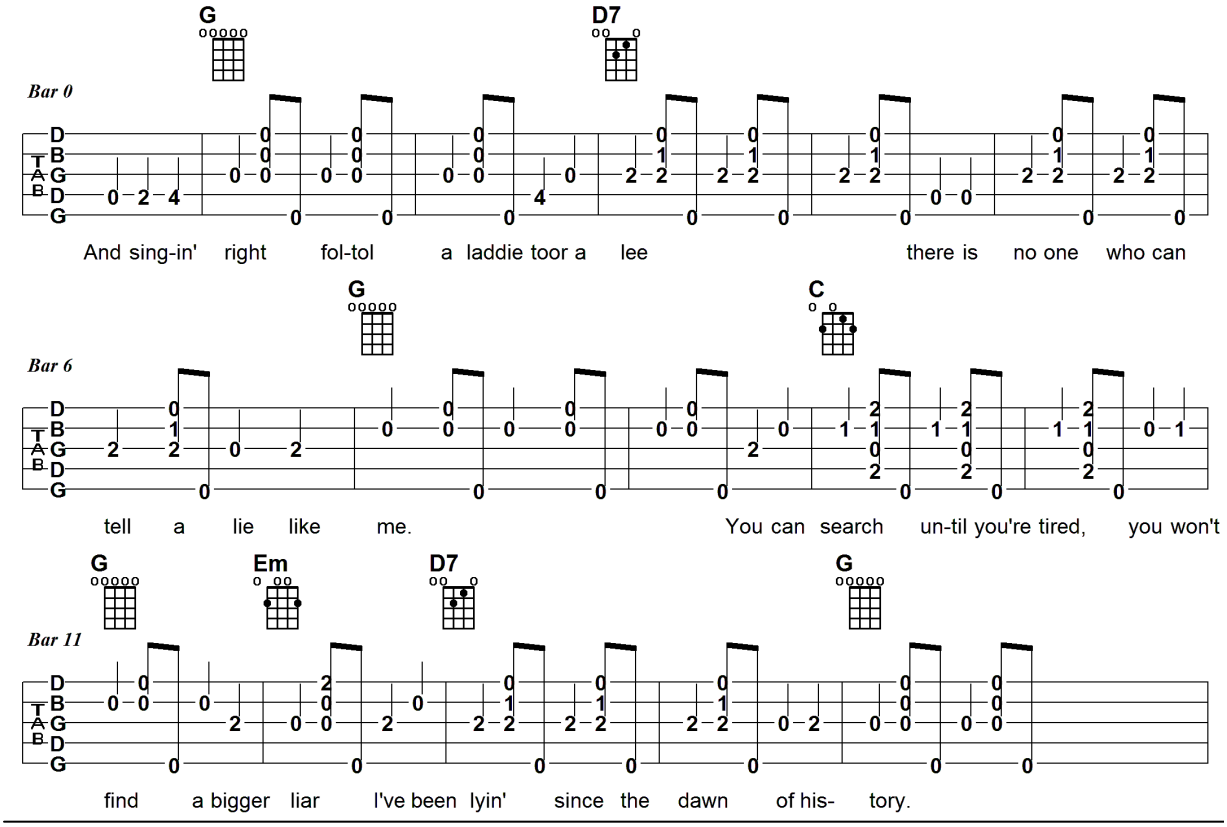
I have sailed with Burgess once before,
And I think I know him right well,
If a man's a sailor he can get along,
If not then he's sure in hell.

Oh the sun is in the harbor love,
And I wish I could remain,
For I know it will be a long, long time,
Before I see you again.

The Liar

4/4 Key of G

A Celtic twist on the American folk song: I Was Born About Ten Thousand Years Ago.



Now I was born about ten thousand years ago
In Bellmullet in the county of Mayo
It was me that chased the vermin while St. Patrick preached a sermon
And I'll whoop the man who says it isn't so.

I saw Eve go pickin' apples of a tree
She came over and she offered one to me
Well I turned and said " Dear Madam, you can try your luck with Adam."
"I'm going home to have some fish and chips and tea."

Now I saw Delilah cuttin' Samson's hair
She snipped away until his head was bare
When he couldn't run away, she married him next day
And they opened up a barbershop in Claire.

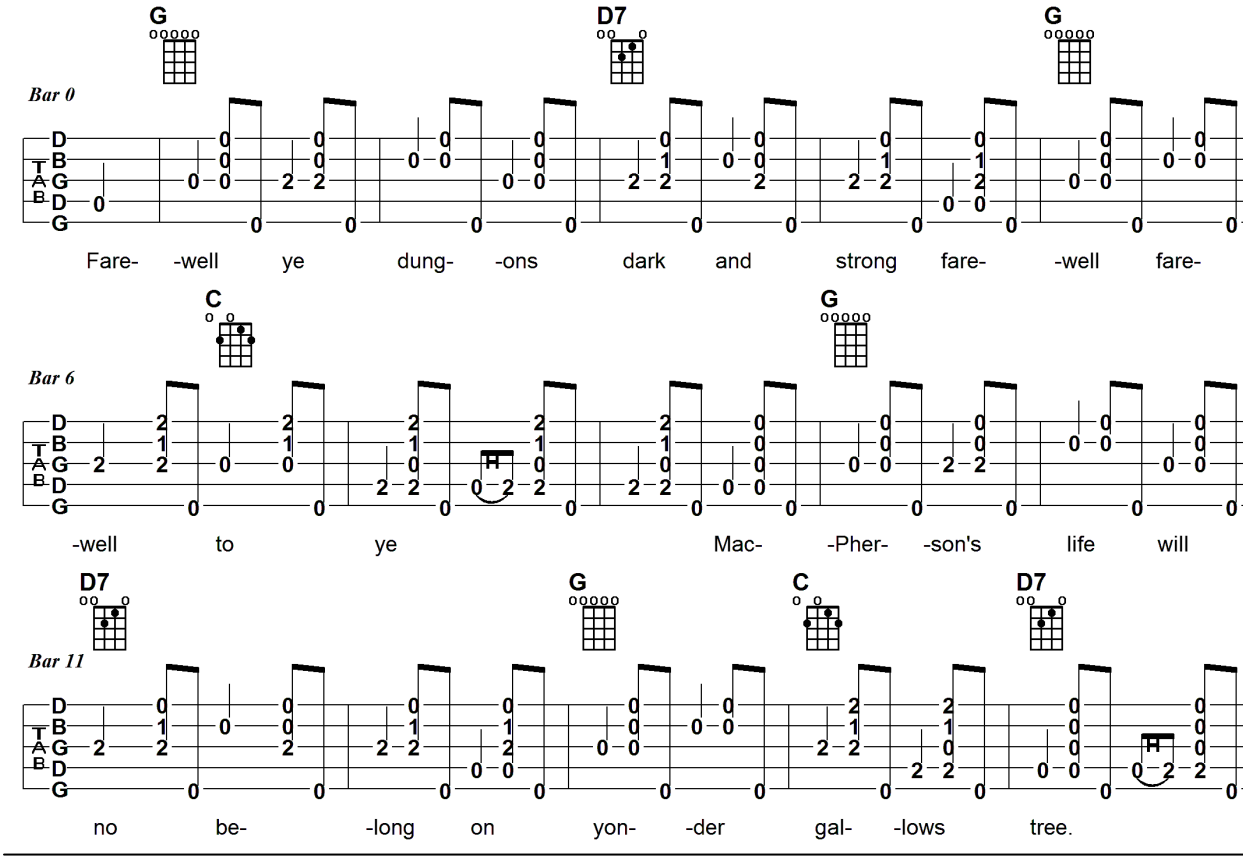
Now when Cromwell came to Ireland long ago
He didn't shed a drop of blood, you know
All the people started grievin' when they heard that he was leavin'
If I knew a bigger lie, I'd tell ya so.

It was during World War II I met them all
There was Roosevelt, Churchill, and De Gaulle
Then one day I nearly fainted, I was havin' my house painted
There was Hitler hangin' paper in the hall

MacPherson's Lament

4/4 Key of G

A somber Scottish song with an excellent chorus that's meant to be sung loud and proud!



Chorus: Sae rantingly, sae wantonly sae dauntingly gaed he
He played a tune an' he danced aroon beneath the gallows tree.

It was by a woman's treacherous hand that I was condemned to dee
Beneath a ledge at a window she stood and a blanket she threw o'er me.

Untie these bands from off my hands and gie to me my sword
There's nae a man in a' Scotland but I'll brave him at a word.

There's some come here to see me hanged and some to buy my fiddle
But before that I do part wi' her I'll brake her thro' the middle.

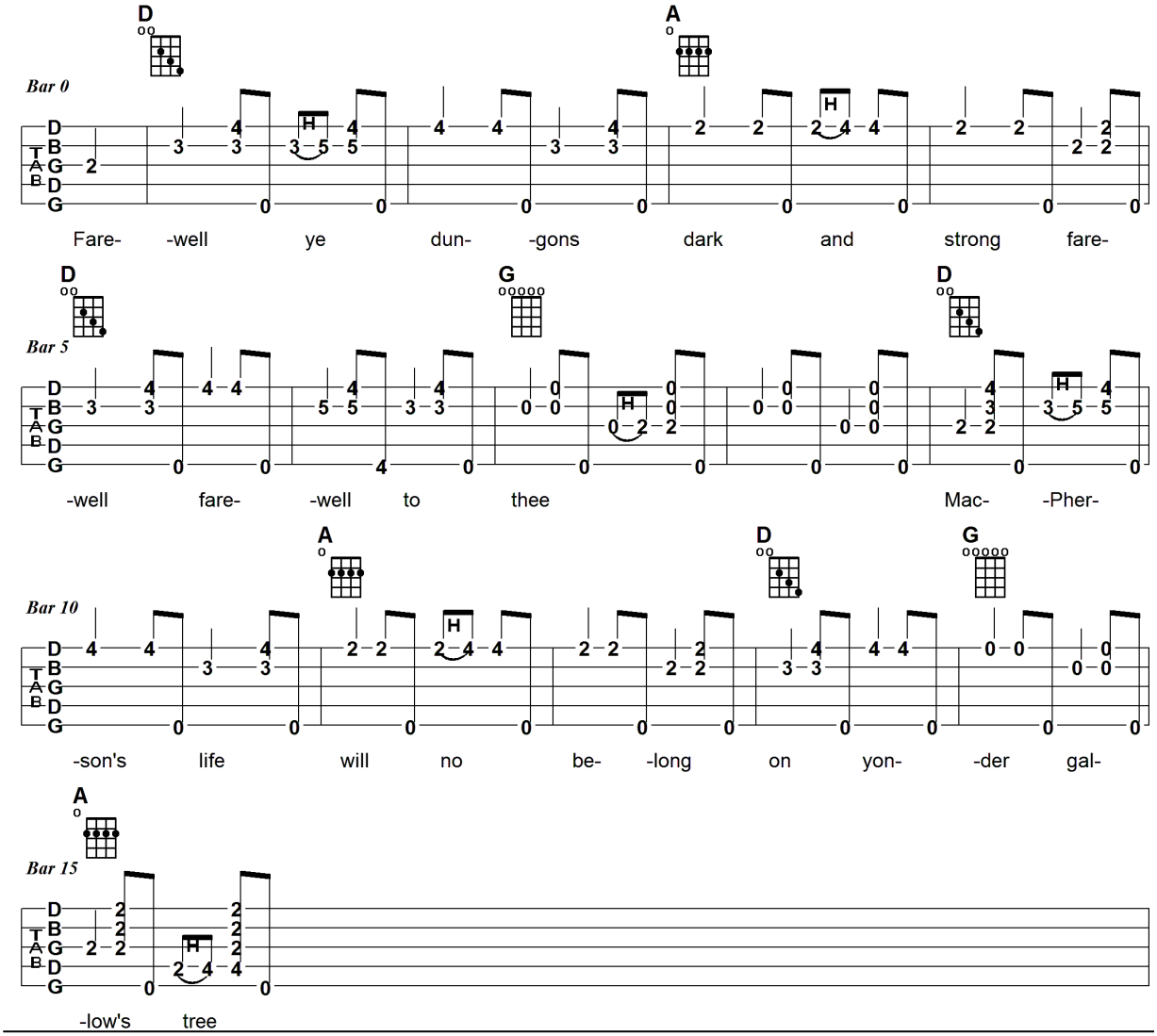
He took the fiddle into both his hands and he broke it o'er a stone
Says there's nae other hand shall play on thee when I am dead and gone.

The reprive was comin' o'er the brig o' Banff to let Macpherson free
But they pit the clock a quarter afore and hanged him to a tree.

MacPherson's Lament

4/4 Key of D

A somber Scottish song with an excellent chorus that's meant to be sung loud and proud!



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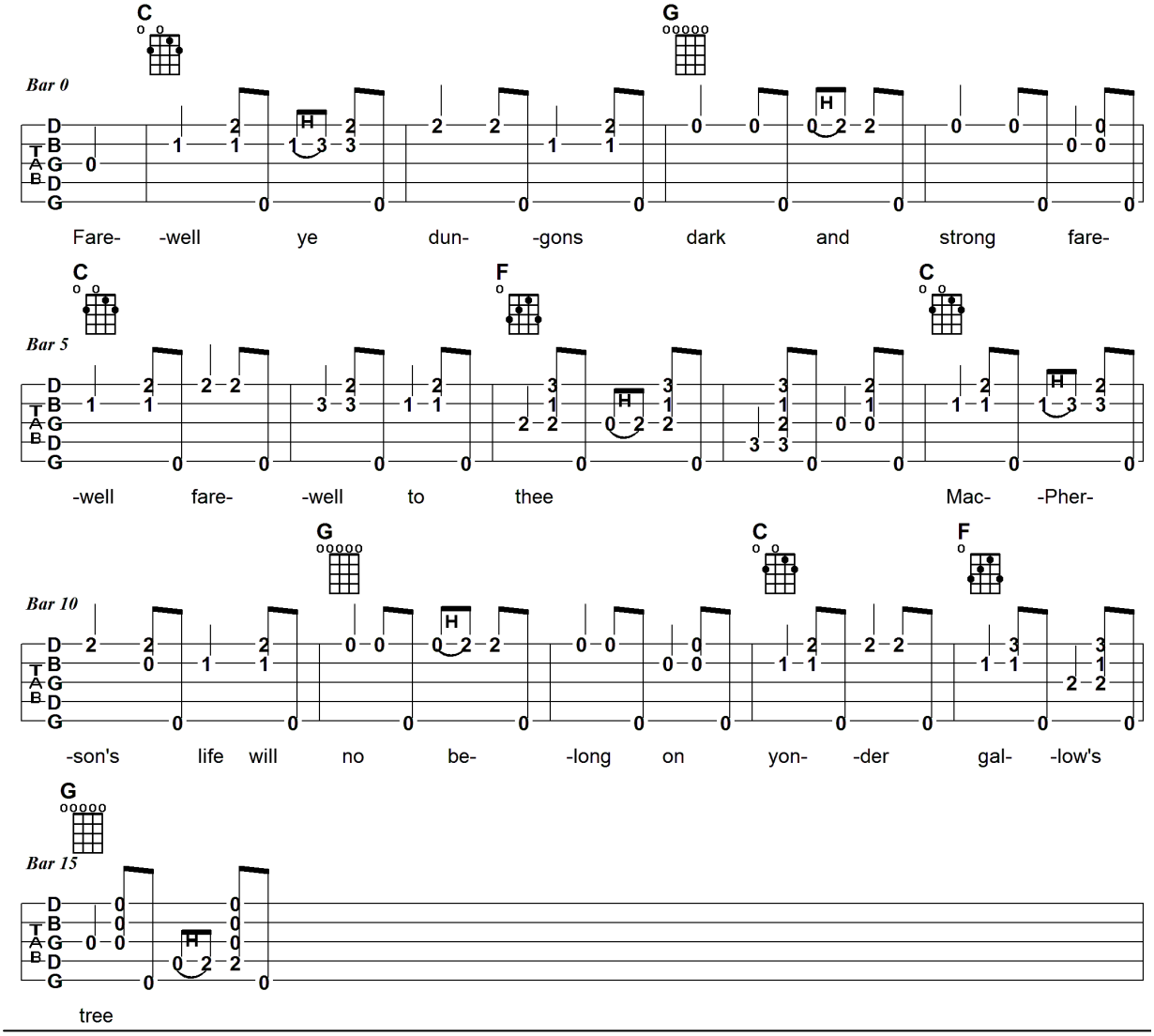
MacPherson's Lament

4/4 Key of C

A somber Scottish song with an excellent chorus that's meant to be sung loud and proud!



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Says there's nae other hand shall play on thee when I am dead and gone.

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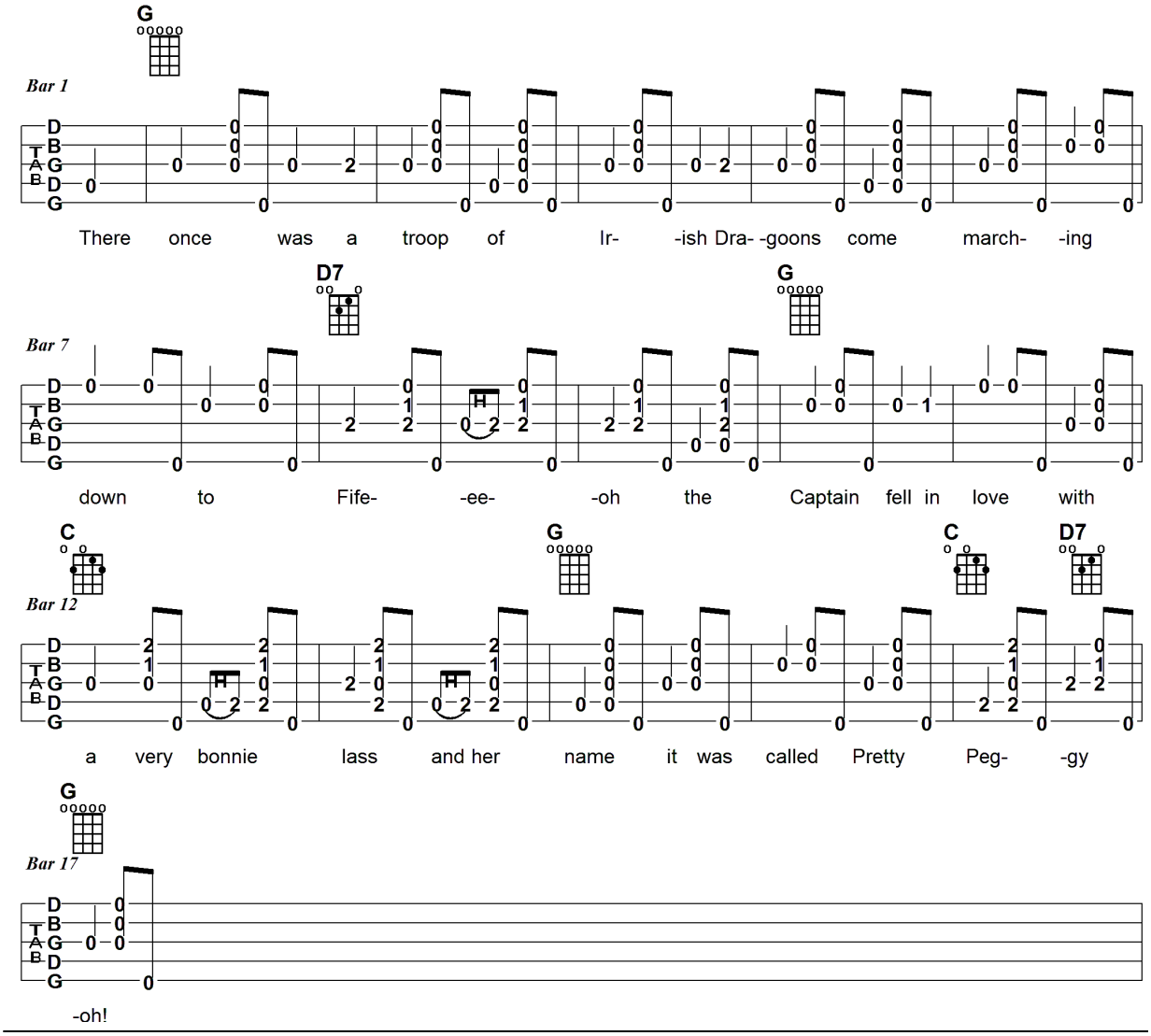
But they pit the clock a quarter afore and hanged him to a tree.

Maid of Fife

4/4 Key of G

The love for a woman could be fatal, in more ways than one!



There's many a bonnie lass in the glen of Auchterlass there's many a bonnie lass in Gairioch-o
There's many a bonnie Jean in the streets of Aberdeen but the flower of them all lives in Fife-y, O

O come down the stairs, Pretty Peggy, my dear come down the stairs, Pretty Peggy-o
Come down the stairs, comb back your yellow hair bid a long farewell to your mammy-o

I never did intend a soldier's lady for to be a soldier shall never enjoy me-o
I never did intend to gae tae a foreign land and I will never marry a soldier-o

The colonel he cried, mount, boys, mount,boys, mount the captain, he cried, tarry-o
O tarry yet a while, just another day or twa til I see if the bonnie lass will marry-o

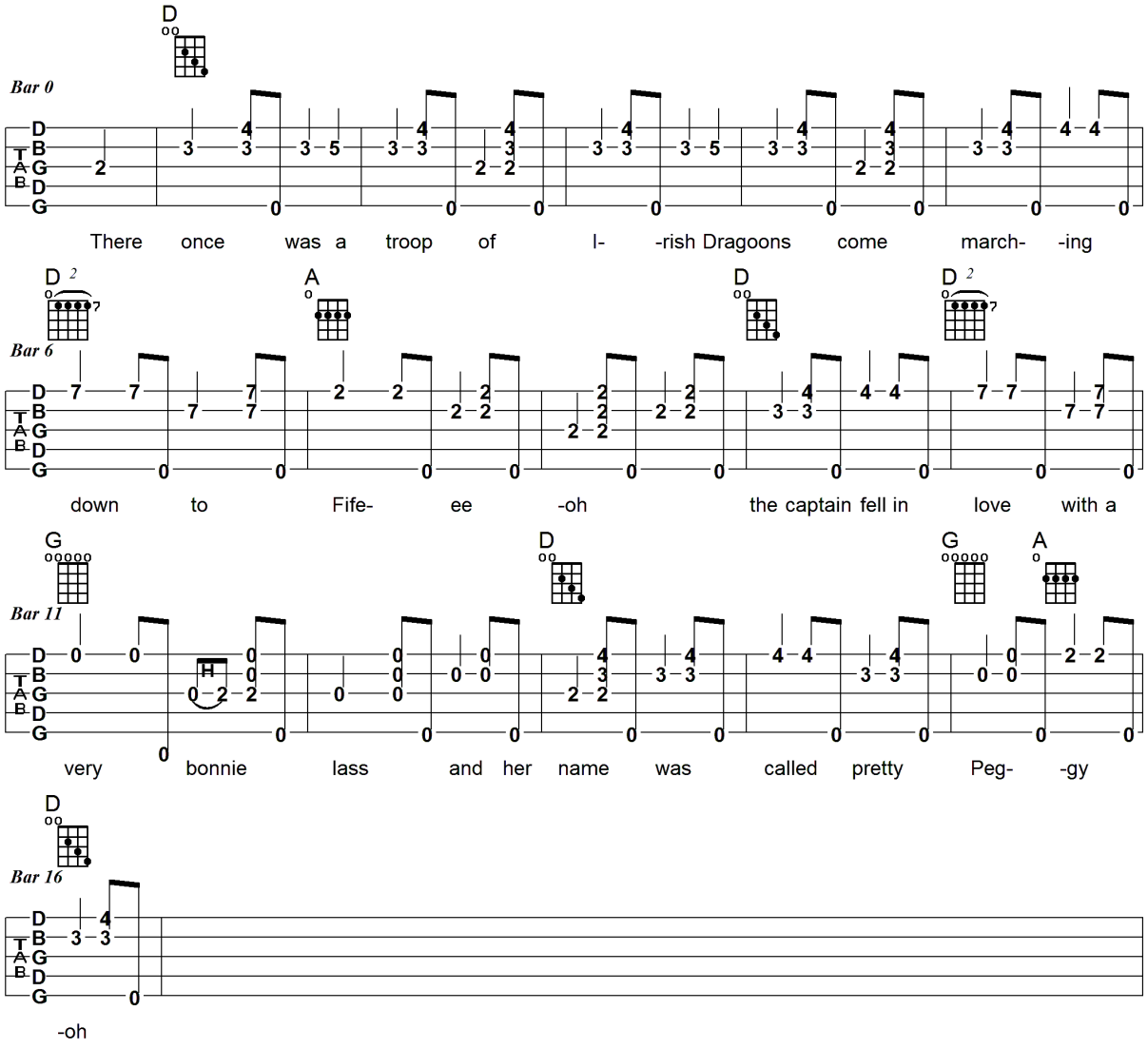
Long ere we came to the glen of Auchterlassv we had our captain to carry-o
And long ere we won into the streets of Aberdeen we had our captain to bury-o

Green grow the birks on bonnie Ethanside and low lie the lowlands of Fife-y, O
The captain's name was Ned and he died for a maid he died for the bonny lass of Fife-y, O

Maid of Fife

4/4 Key of D

The love for a woman could be fatal, in more ways than one!


Bar 0
There once was a troop of I- -rish Dragoons come march- -ing
Bar 6
down to Fife- ee -oh the captain fell in love with a
Bar 11
very bonnie lass and her name was called pretty Peg- -gy
Bar 16
-oh

There's many a bonnie lass in the glen of Auchterlass there's many a bonnie lass in Gairioch-o
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Maid of Fife

4/4 Key of C

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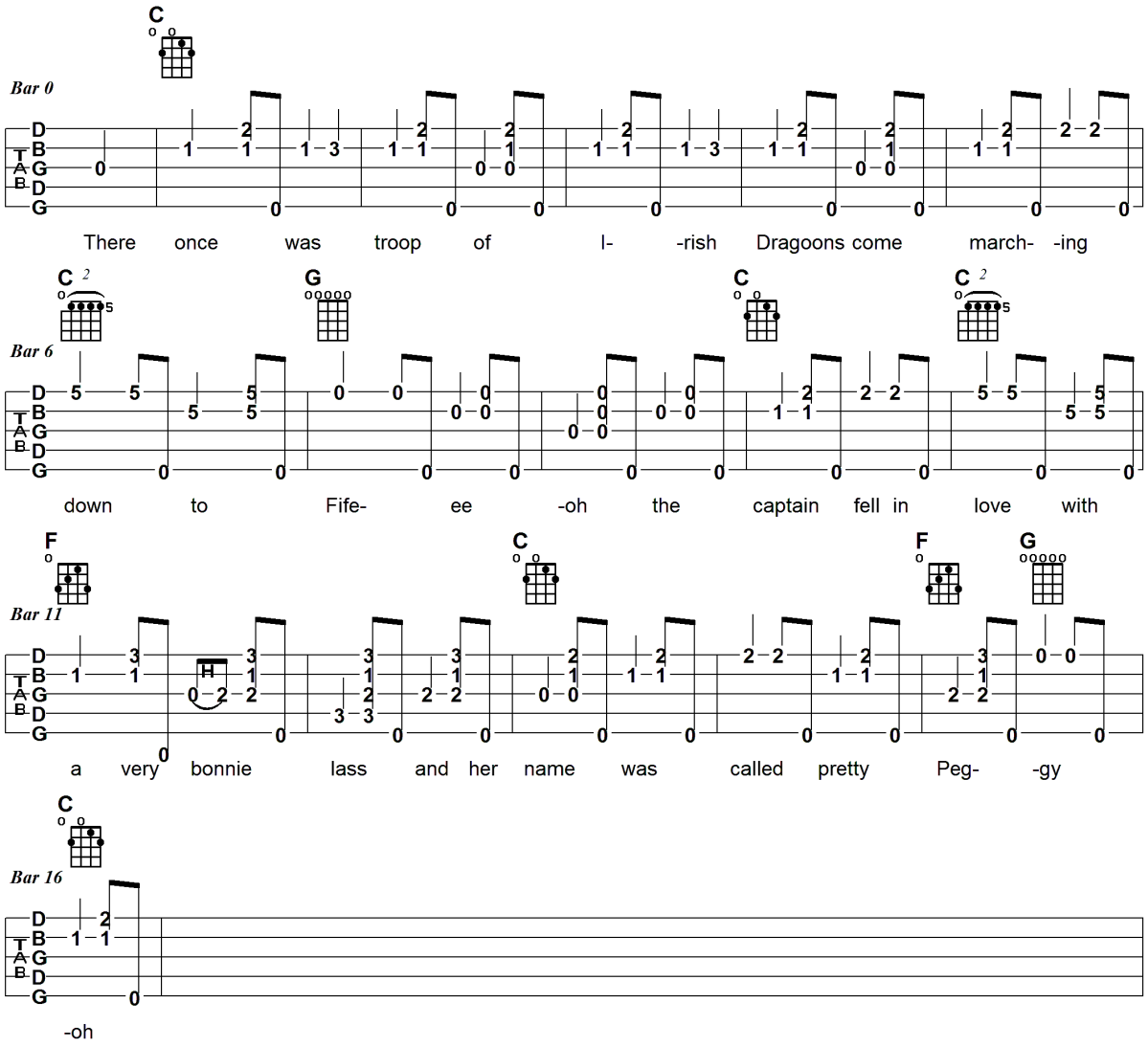

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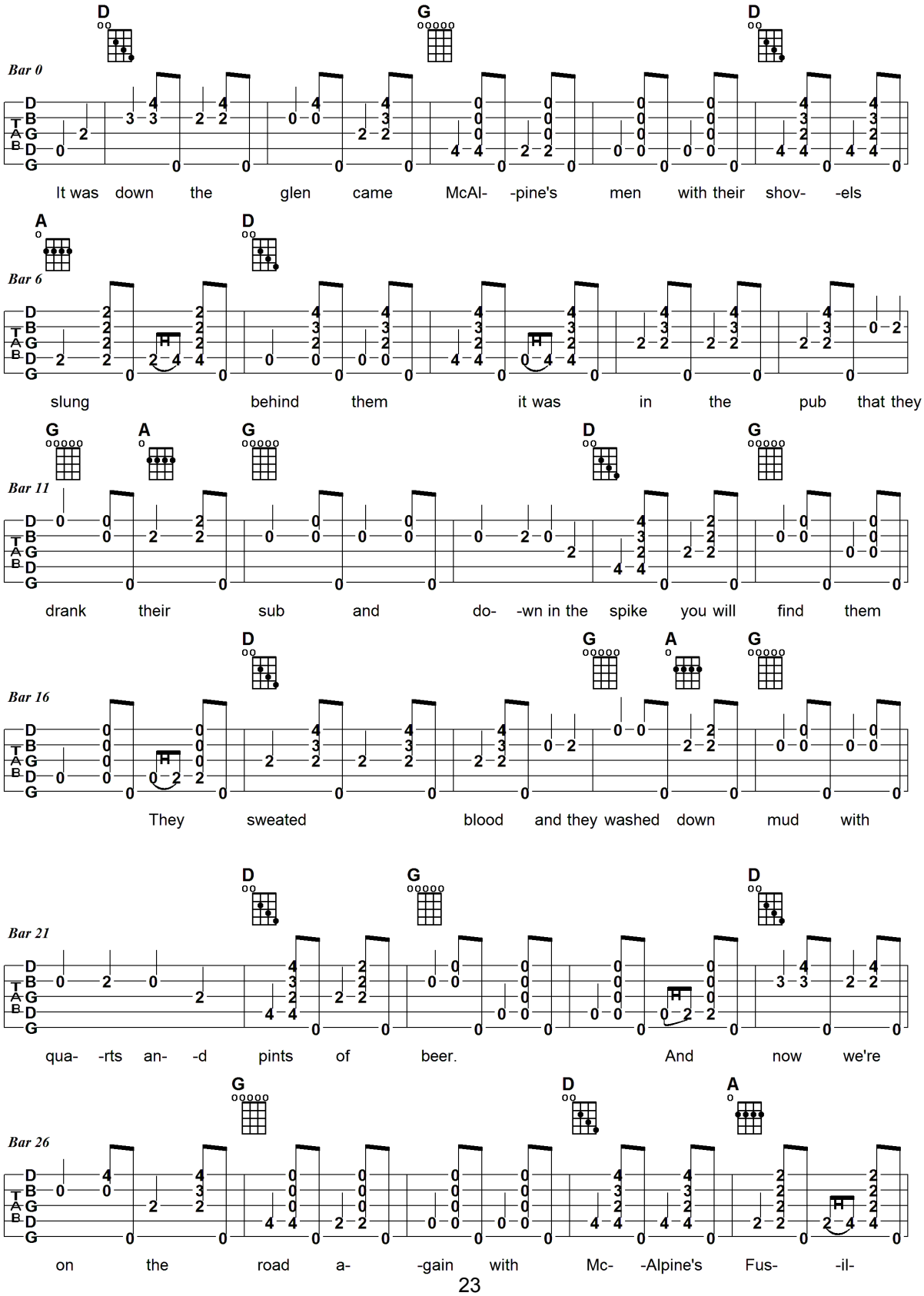
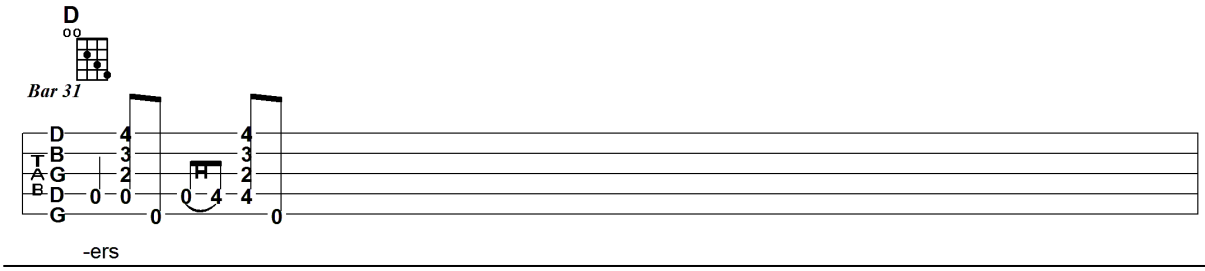
The captain's name was Ned and he died for a maid he died for the bonny lass of Fife-y, O

McAlpine's Fusiliers

4/4 Key of D

Another indication that the immigrant's life has never been easy!


D G D
Bar 0
It was down the glen came McAl- -pine's men with their shov- -els
A D
Bar 6
slung behind them it was in the pub that they
G A G D G
Bar 11
drank their sub and do- -wn in the spike you will find them
D G A G
Bar 16
They sweated blood and they washed down mud with
D G D
Bar 21
qua- -rts an- -d pints of beer. And now we're
G D A
Bar 26
on the road a- -gain with Mc- -Alpine's Fus- -il-



I stripped to the skin with the darkie Finn
Way down upon the Isle Of Grain
With horse face Toole we knew the rule
No money if you stop for rain
McAlpines God was a well filled hod
Your shoulders cut to bits and seared
And woe to he went to look for tea
With McAlpines Fusilers

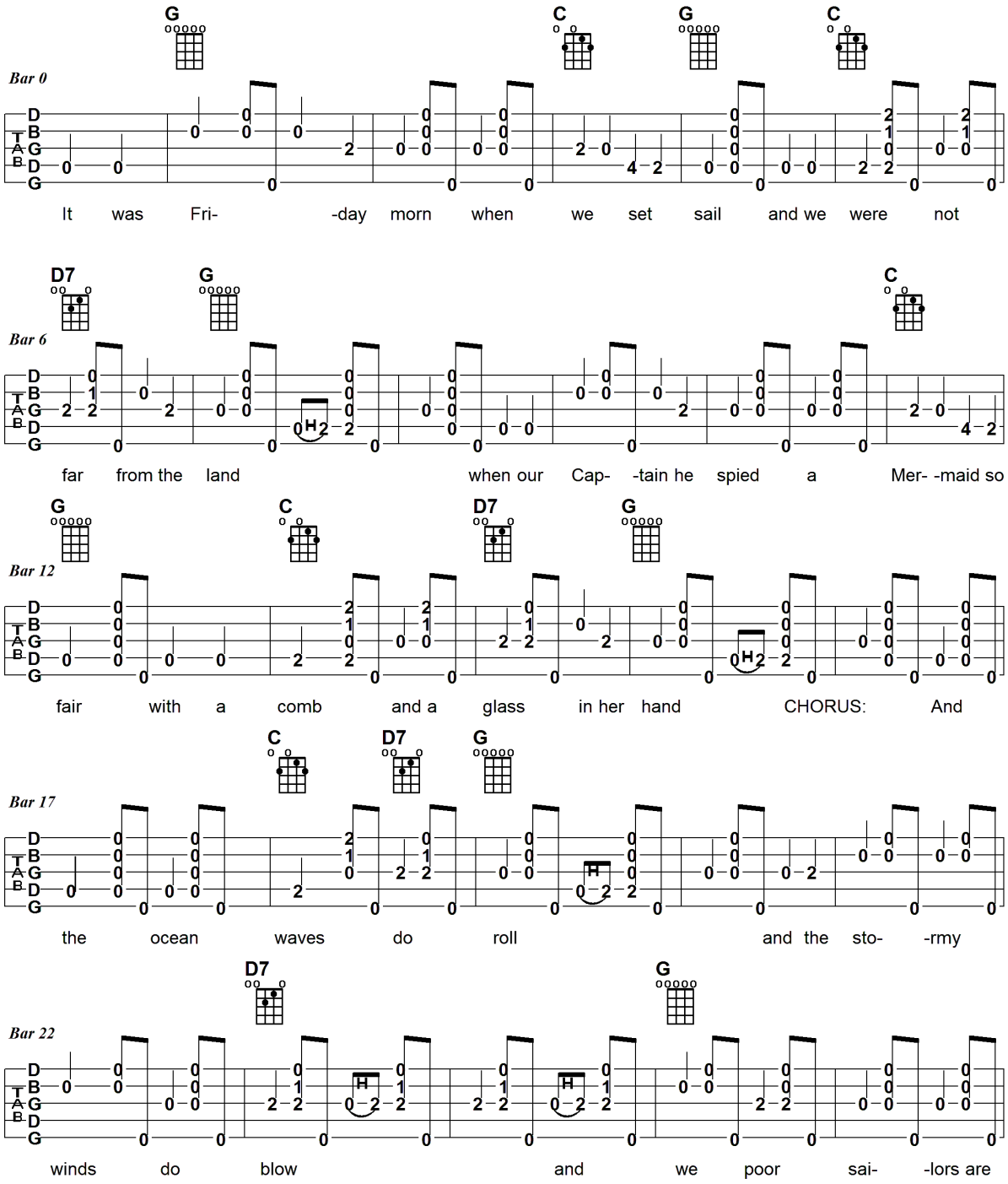
I remember the day when the Bear O' Shea
Fell into a concrete stairs
What horse face said when he saw him dead
It wasn't what the rich called prayers
I'm a navvy short was the one retort
That reached onto my ears
When the going gets rough then you must be tough
With McAlpines Fusilers

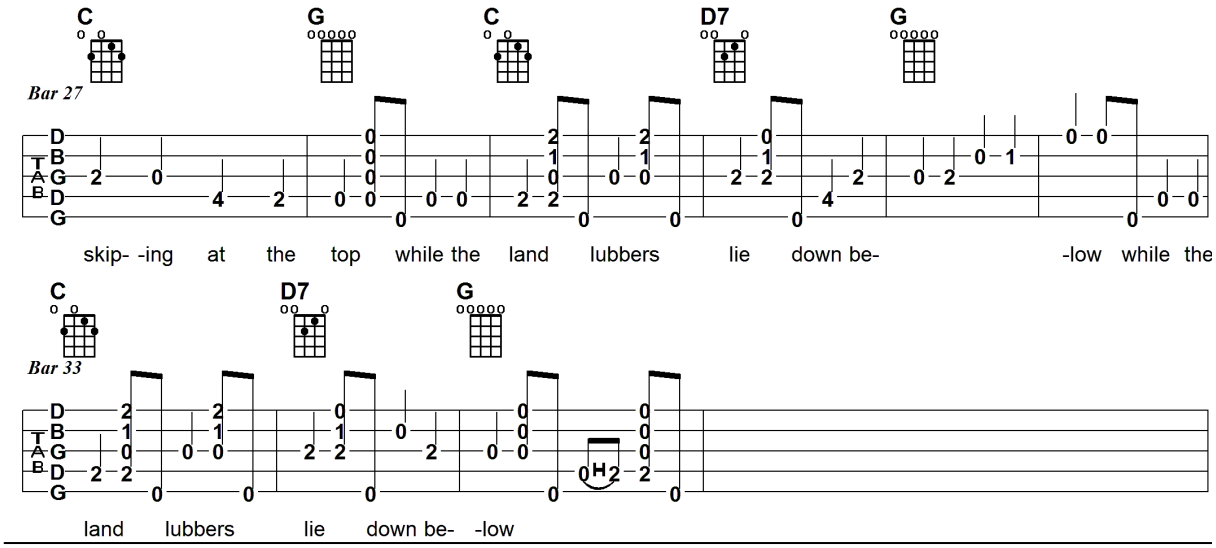
I've worked till the sweat nearly had me bet
With Russian Czech and Pole
On shuddering jams up in the hydro dams
Or underneath the Thames in a hole
I grafted hard and I got me cards
And many a gangers fist across me ears
If you pride your life dont join by cripes with McAlpines Fusilers

The Mermaid

4/4 Key of G

One of the best sea songs in captivity! It has everything: a Mermaid, a storm and plenty of lost sailors!


G C G C
Bar 0
It was Fri- -day morn when we set sail and we were not
D7 G C
Bar 6
far from the land when our Cap- -tain he spied a Mer- -maid so
G C D7 G
Bar 12
fair with a comb and a glass in her hand CHORUS: And
C D7 G
Bar 17
the ocean waves do roll and the sto- -rmy
D7 G
Bar 22
winds do blow and we poor sai- -lors are



Then up spoke the captain of our gallant ship and a fine old man was he
This fishy mermaid has warned me of our doom, we shall sink to the bottom of the sea.

Then up spoke the mate of our gallant ship and fine standing lad was he
He says I've a wife in Brooklyn by the sea and tonight she a widow will be

Then up spoke the cabin boy of our gallant ship and fine young man was he
He says I've a sweetheart in Salem by the sea and tonight she'll be grieving for me

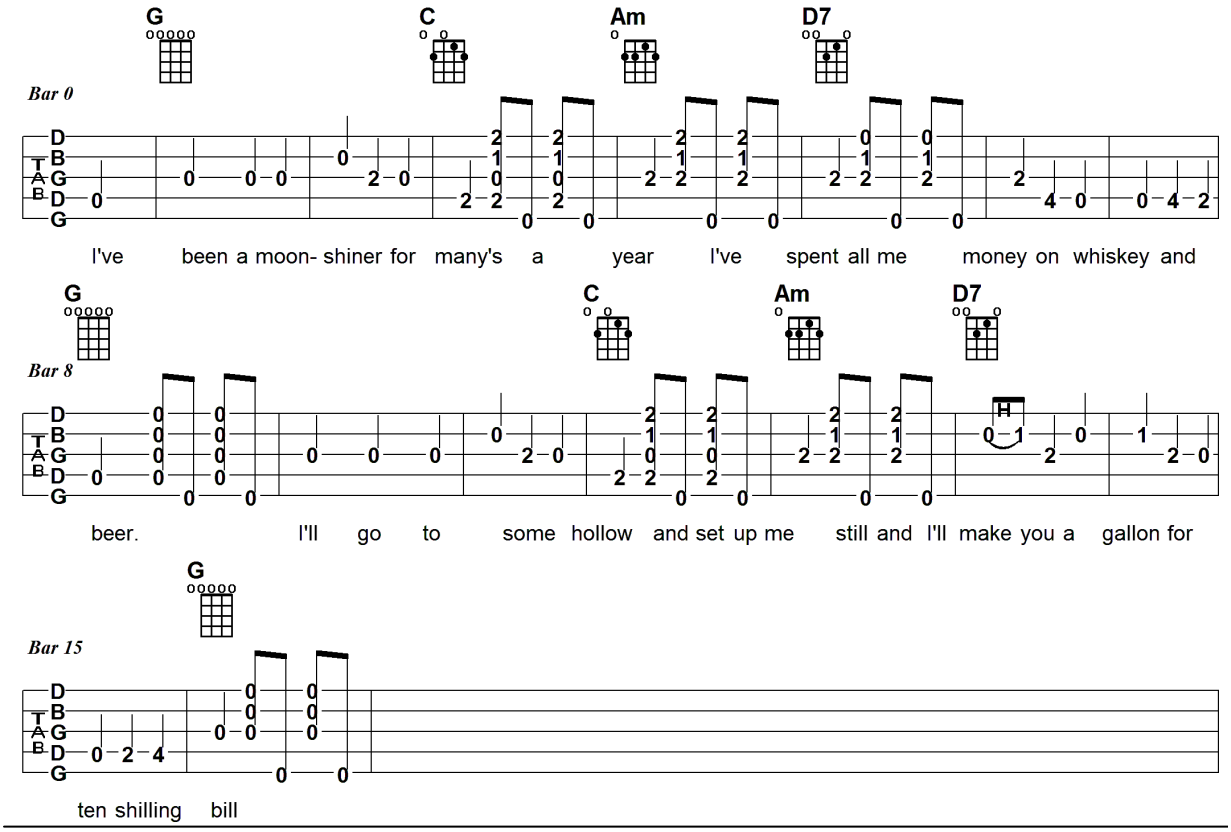
Then up spoke the cook of our gallant ship and crazy old butcher was he
He says I care more for me pots and me pans than I do for the bottom of the sea

Nine times around spun our gallant ship and nine times around spun she.
Nine times around spun our gallant ship til she sank to the bottom of the sea.

The Moonshiner

3/4 Key of G

Oh for the days that the Moonshiner was celebrated in song!



Chorus:

Well I'm a rambler, I'm a gambler. I'm a long ways from home
And if you don't like me well leave me alone
'll eat when I'm hungry and I'll drink when I'm dry
And the moonshine don't kill me I'll live till I die

Well I've been a moonshiner for many's a year
I've spent all me money on whiskey and beer
I'll go to some hollow and I'll set up my still
And I'll make you a gallon for a ten shilling bill

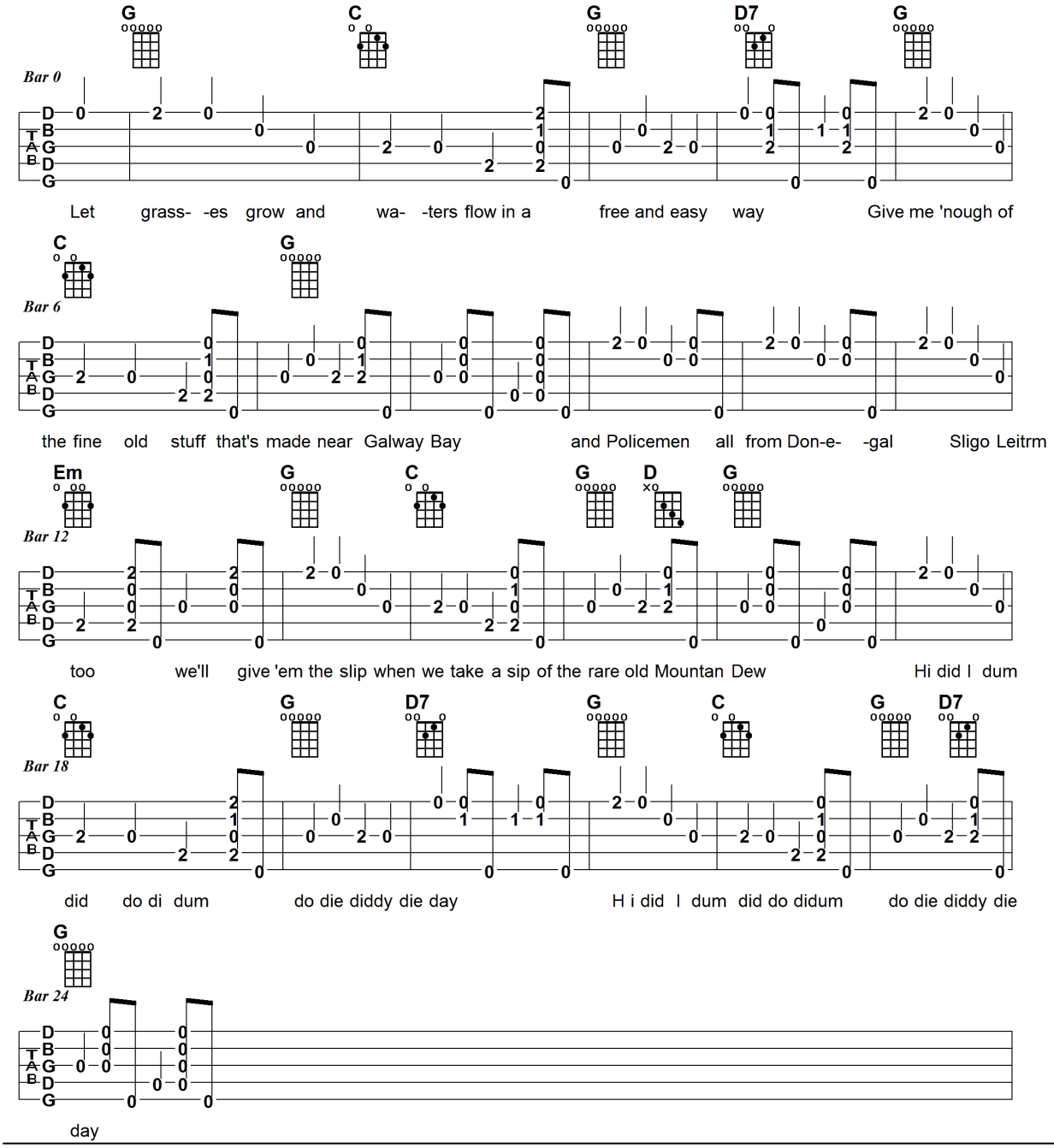
I'll go to some hollow in this country
Ten gallons of wash I can go on a spree
No women to follow, the world is all mine
I love none so well as I love the moonshine

Oh moonshine, dear moonshine, oh how I love thee
You killed me old father, but dare you try me
Oh bless all moonshiners and bless all moonshine
Their breath smells as sweet as the dew on the vine

Mountain Dew

4/4 Key of G

One of the very few songs to originate from America and return from Ireland.


G C G D7 G
Bar 0
Let grass- -es grow and wa- -ters flow in a free and easy way Give me 'nough of
C G
Bar 6
the fine old stuff that's made near Galway Bay and Policemen all from Don-e- -gal Sligo Leitrm
Em G C G D G
Bar 12
too we'll give 'em the slip when we take a sip of the rare old Mountan Dew Hi did I dum
C G D7 G C G D7
Bar 18
did do di dum do die diddy die day H i did I dum did do didum do die diddy die
G
Bar 24
day

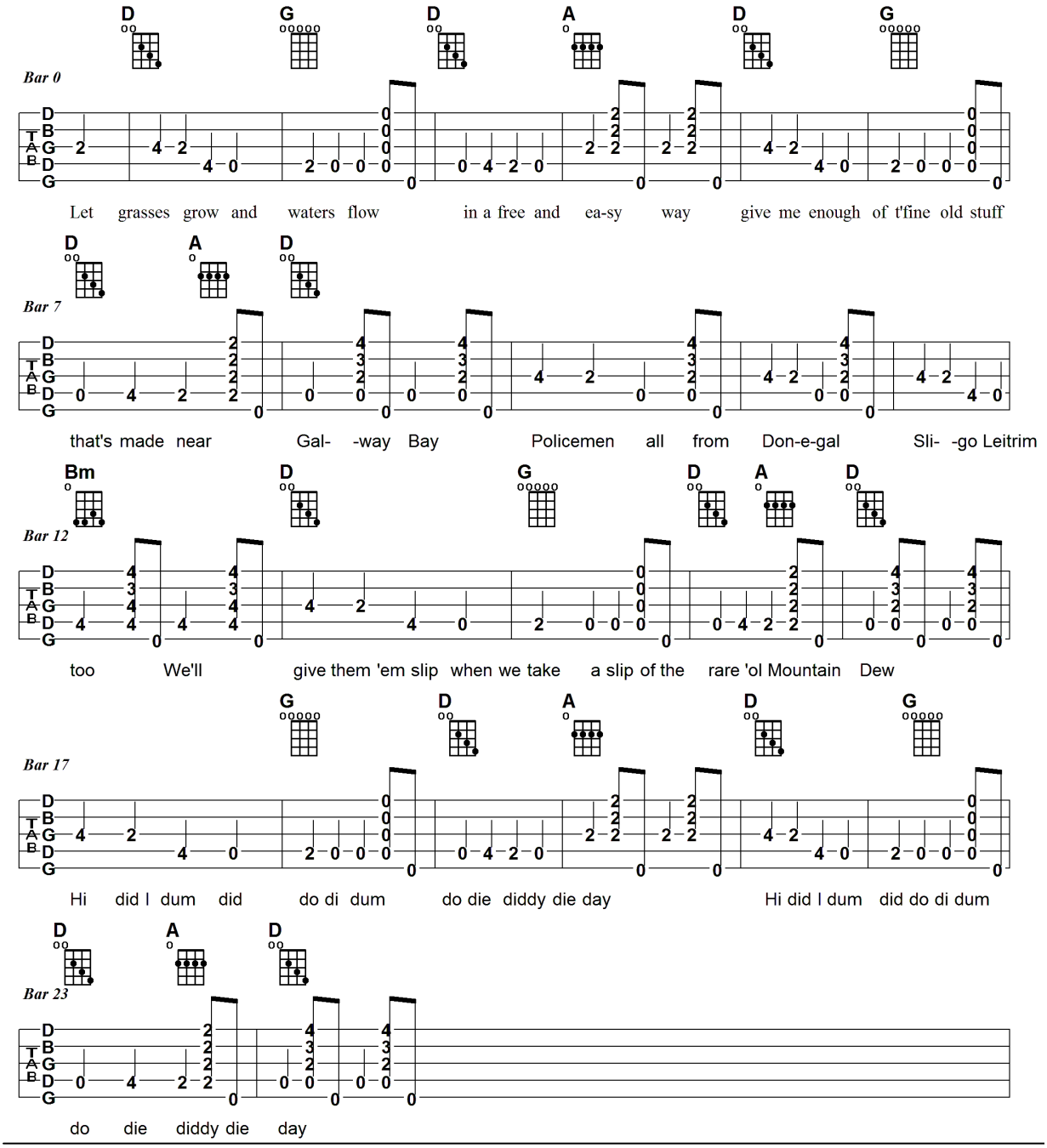
At the foot of the hill there's a neat little still where the smoke curls up to the sky
By the smoke and the smell you can plainly tell that there's porteen brewin' near by
For it fills the air with odor rare and betwixt both me and you
When home you stroll you can take a bowl or a bucket of the mountain dew

Now learned men who use the pen have wrote your praises high
The sweet poteen from Ireland's green distilled from wheat and rye
Throw away your pills, it will cure all ills. Be ya pagan, Christian , or Jew.
Tear off your coat and grease your throat with the real old mountain dew

Mountain Dew

4/4 Key of D

One of the very few songs to originate from America and return from Ireland.


D G D A D G
Bar 0
Let grasses grow and waters flow in a free and ea-sy way give me enough of t'fine old stuff
D A D
Bar 7
that's made near Gal- -way Bay Policemen all from Don-e-gal Sli- -go Leitrim
Bm D G D A D
Bar 12
too We'll give them 'em slip when we take a slip of the rare 'ol Mountain Dew
G D A D G
Bar 17
Hi did I dum did do di dum do die diddy die day Hi did I dum did do di dum
D A D
Bar 23
do die diddy die day

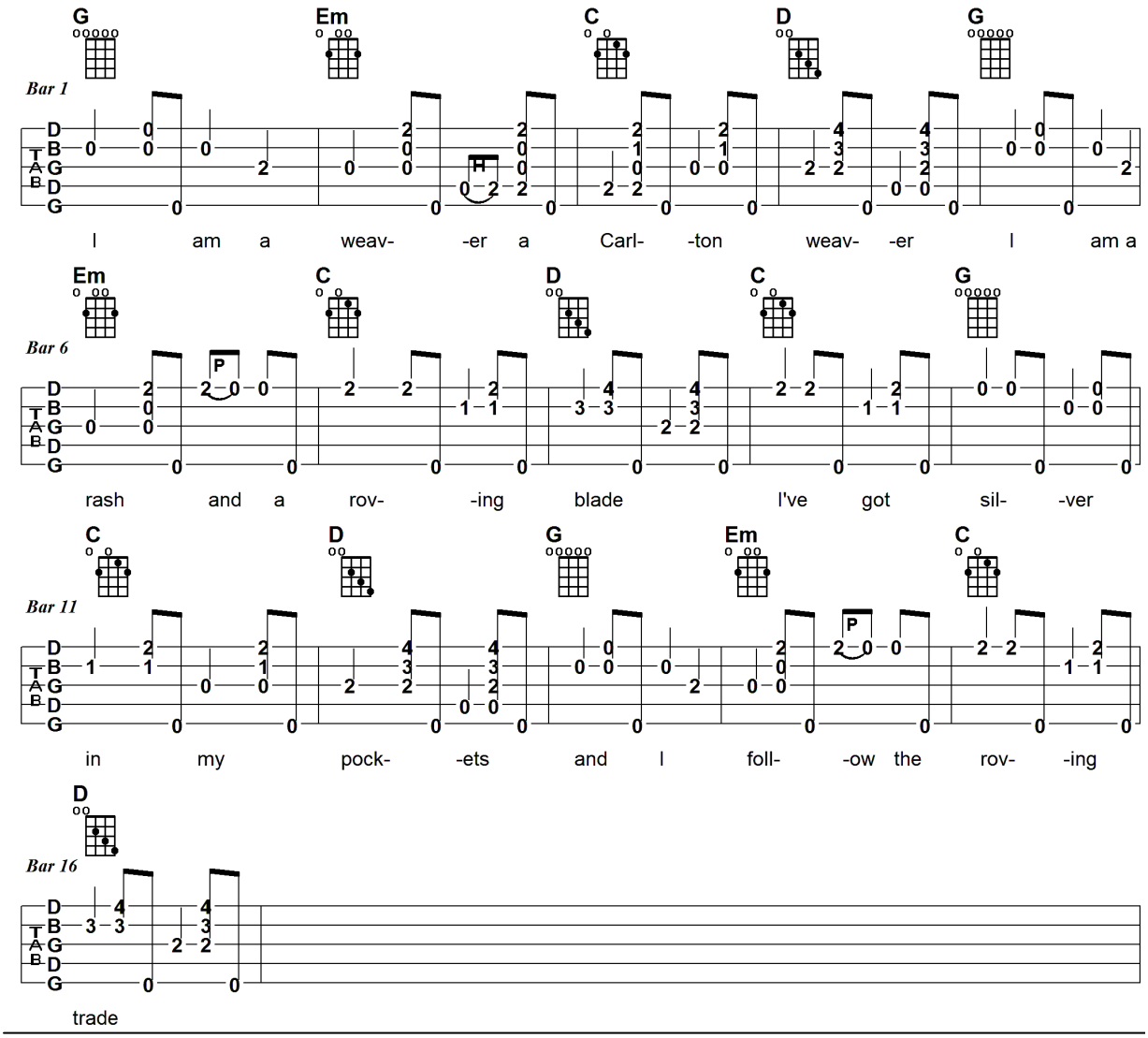
At the foot of the hill there's a neat little still where the smoke curls up to the sky
By the smoke and the smell you can plainly tell that there's porteen brewin' near by
For it fills the air with odor rare and betwixt both me and you
When home you stroll you can take a bowl or a bucket of the mountain dew

Now learned men who use the pen have wrote your praises high
The sweet poteen from Ireland's green distilled from wheat and rye
Throw away your pills, it will cure all ills. Be ya pagan, Christian , or Jew.
Tear off your coat and grease your throat with the real old mountain dew

Nancy Whiskey

4/4 Key of G

Oh, the life of a man in love with booze!!


G Em C D G
Bar 1
I am a weav- -er a Carl- -ton weav- -er I am a
Em C D C G
Bar 6
rash and a rov- -ing blade I've got sil- -ver
C D G Em C
Bar 11
in my pock- -ets and I foll- -ow the rov- -ing
D
Bar 16
trade

As I went down through Glasgow City, Nancy Whiskey I chanced to smell
I went in, sat down beside her, seven long years I loved her well

The more I kissed her, the more I loved her, the more I kissed her, the more she smiled
Soon I forgot my mother's teaching, Nancy soon had me beguiled

Now, I rose early in the morning, to slake my thirst, it was my need
I tried to rise but I was not able, Nancy had me by the knees

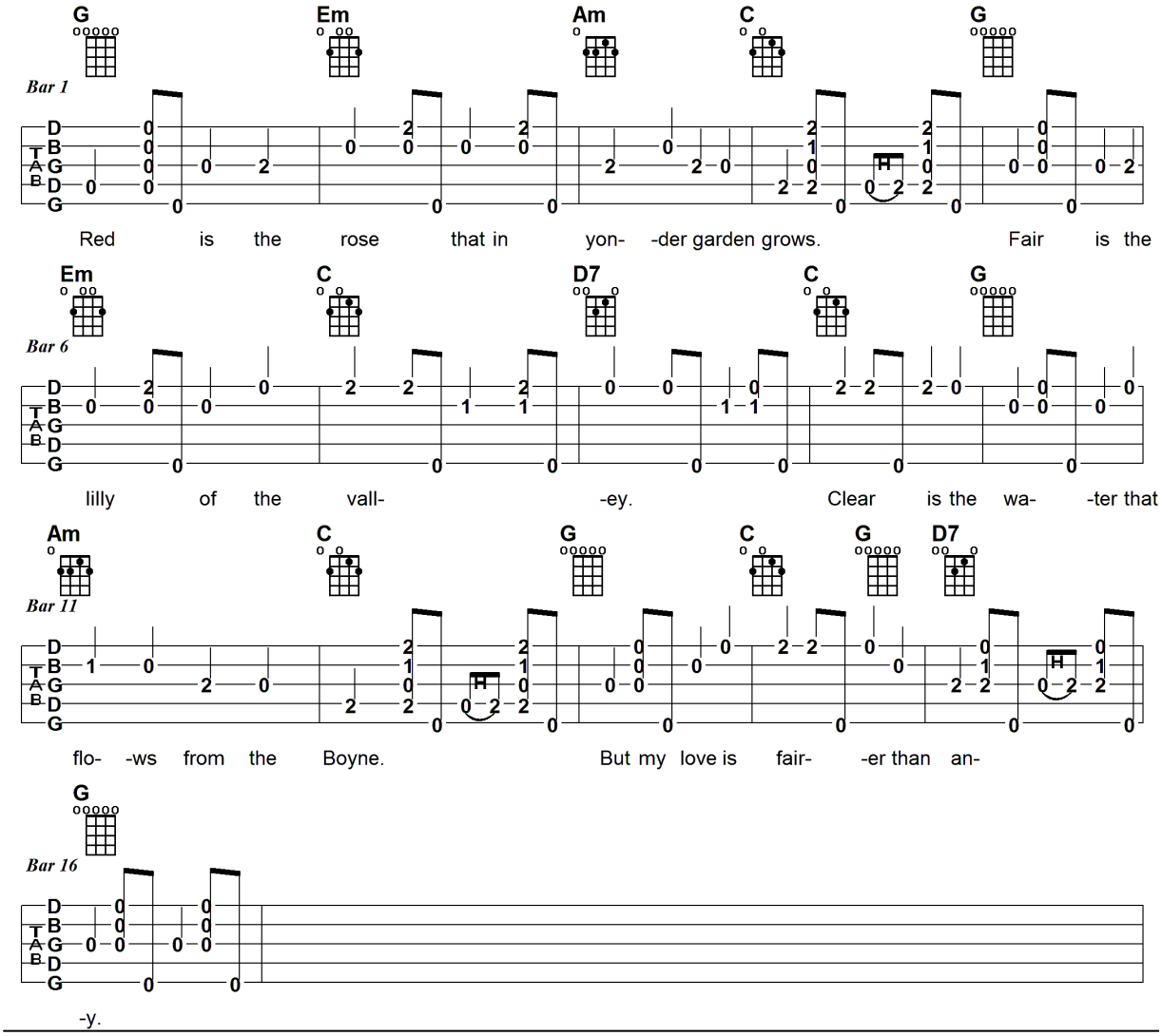
So I'm going back to the Carlton weaving, I'll surely make them shuttles fly
For I'll make more at the Carlton weaving than ever I did in the roving way

So come all you weavers, you Carlton weavers, come all you weavers, where e'er you be
Beware of Whiskey, Nancy Whiskey, she'll ruin you like she ruined me

Red Is The Rose

4/4 Key of G

The song was written by Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy and has the melody of Loch Lomond.


G Em Am C G
Bar 1
Red is the rose that in yon- -der garden grows. Fair is the
Em C D7 C G
Bar 6
lilly of the vall- -ey. Clear is the wa- -ter that
Am C G C G D7
Bar 11
flo- -ws from the Boyne. But my love is fair- -er than an-
G
Bar 16
-y.

Come over the hills, my bonny Irish lass. Come over the hills to your darling;
You choose the rose, love, and I'll make the vow and I'll be your true love forever.

Chorus:
Red is the rose that in yonder garden grows, and fair is the lily of the valley;
Clear is the water that flows from the Boyne but my love is fairer than any.

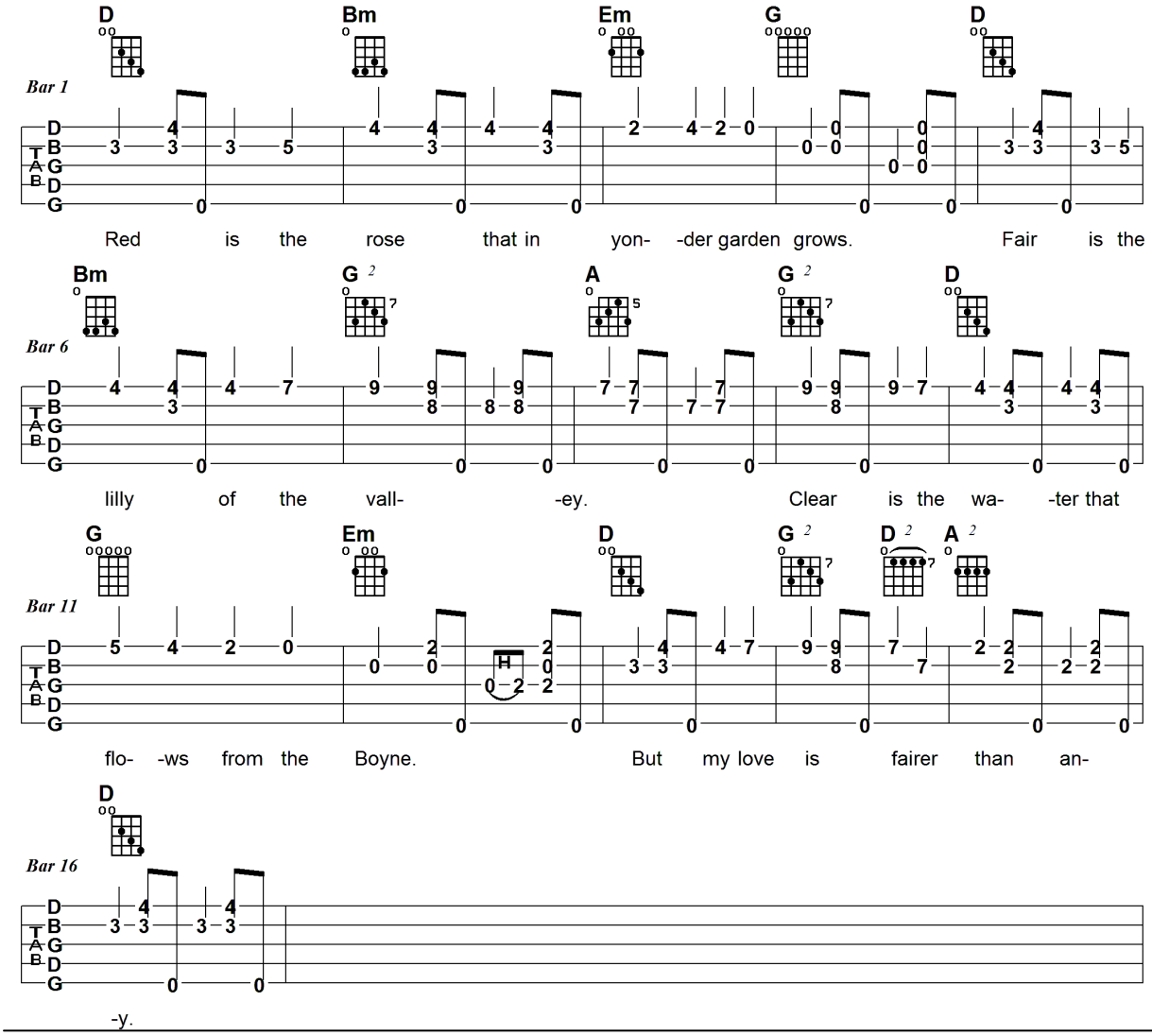
'Twas down by Killarney's green woods that we strayed and the moon and the stars they were shining;
The moon shone its rays on her locks of golden hair and she swore she'd be my love forever.

It's not for the parting tht my sister pains. It's not for the grief of my mother,
"Tis all for the loss of my bonny Irish lass that my heart is breaking forever.

Red Is The Rose

4/4 Key of D

The song was written by Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy and has the melody of Loch Lomond.


D Bm Em G D
Bar 1
Red is the rose that in yon- -der garden grows. Fair is the
Bm G A G D
Bar 6
lilly of the vall- -ey. Clear is the wa- -ter that
G Em D G D A
Bar 11
flo- -ws from the Boyne. But my love is fairer than an-
D
Bar 16
-y.

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Red Is The Rose

4/4 Key of C

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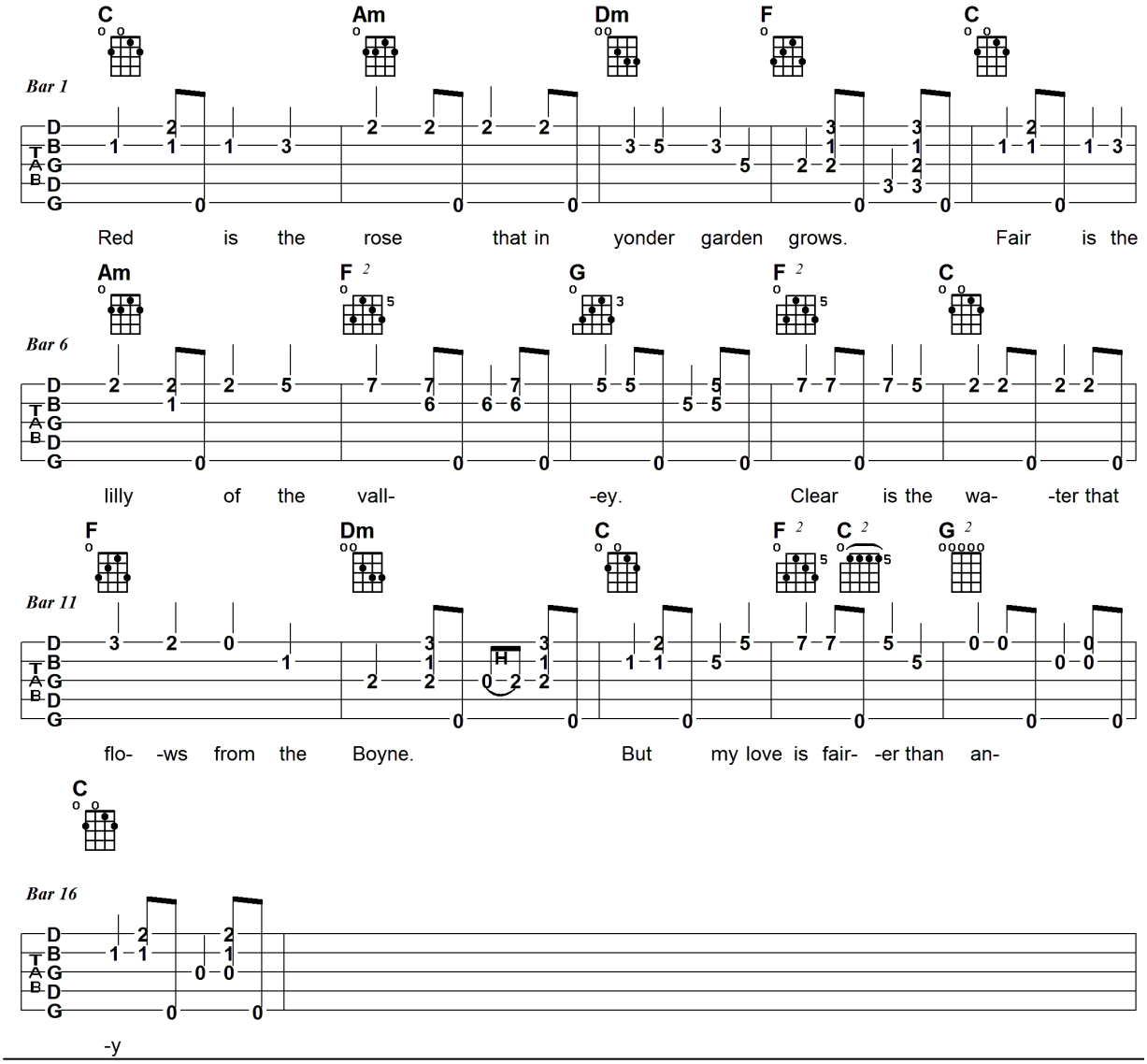
C Am Dm F C
Bar 1
Red is the rose that in yonder garden grows. Fair is the
Am F G F C
Bar 6
lilly of the vall- -ey. Clear is the wa- -ter that
F Dm C F C G
Bar 11
flo- -ws from the Boyne. But my love is fair- -er than an-
C
Bar 16
-y

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Chorus:
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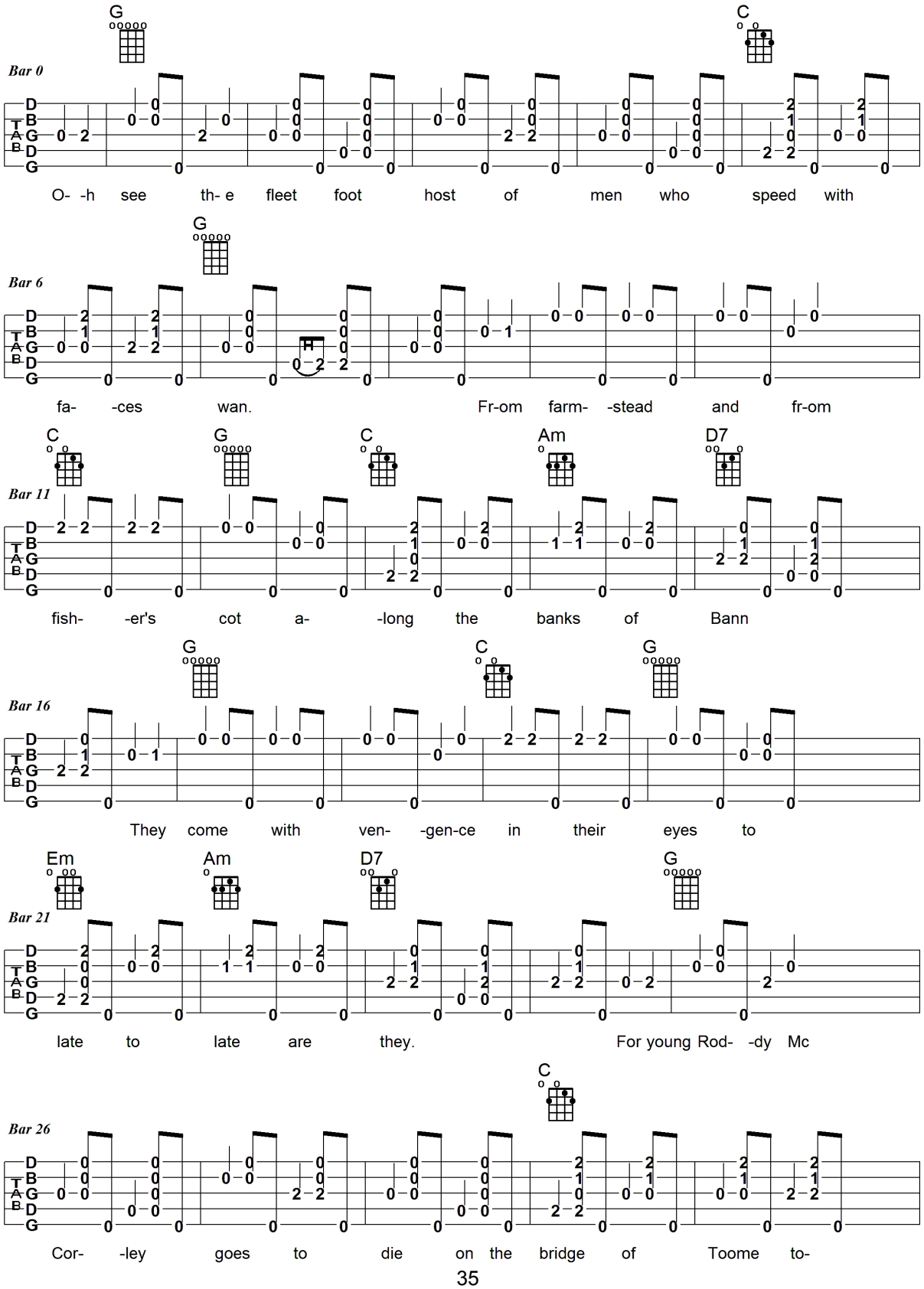
'Twas down by Killarney's green woods that we strayed and the moon and the stars they were shining;
The moon shone its rays on her locks of golden hair and she swore she'd be my love forever.

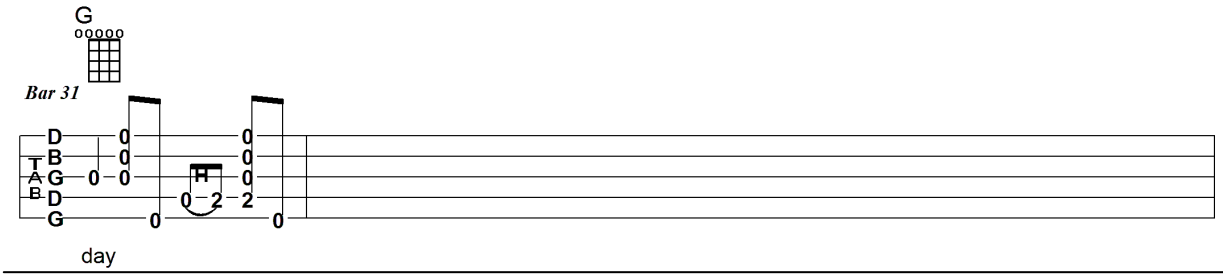
It's not for the parting tht my sister pains. It's not for the grief of my mother,
"Tis all for the loss of my bonny Irish lass that my heart is breaking forever.

Roddy McCorley

4/4 Key of G

The song about one of the Protestant leaders of the 1798 Rebellion.





Up the narrow streets he steps smiling proud and young
About the hemp rope on his neck the golden ringlets clung
There is never a fear in his blue eyes both glad and bright are they
As young Roddy McCorley goes to die on the bridge of Toome today

When he last stepped up that street his shining pike in hand
Behind him marched in grim array a stalward earnest band
For Antrim town, for Antrim town, he lead them to the fray
And young Roddy McCorley goes to die on the bridge of Toome today

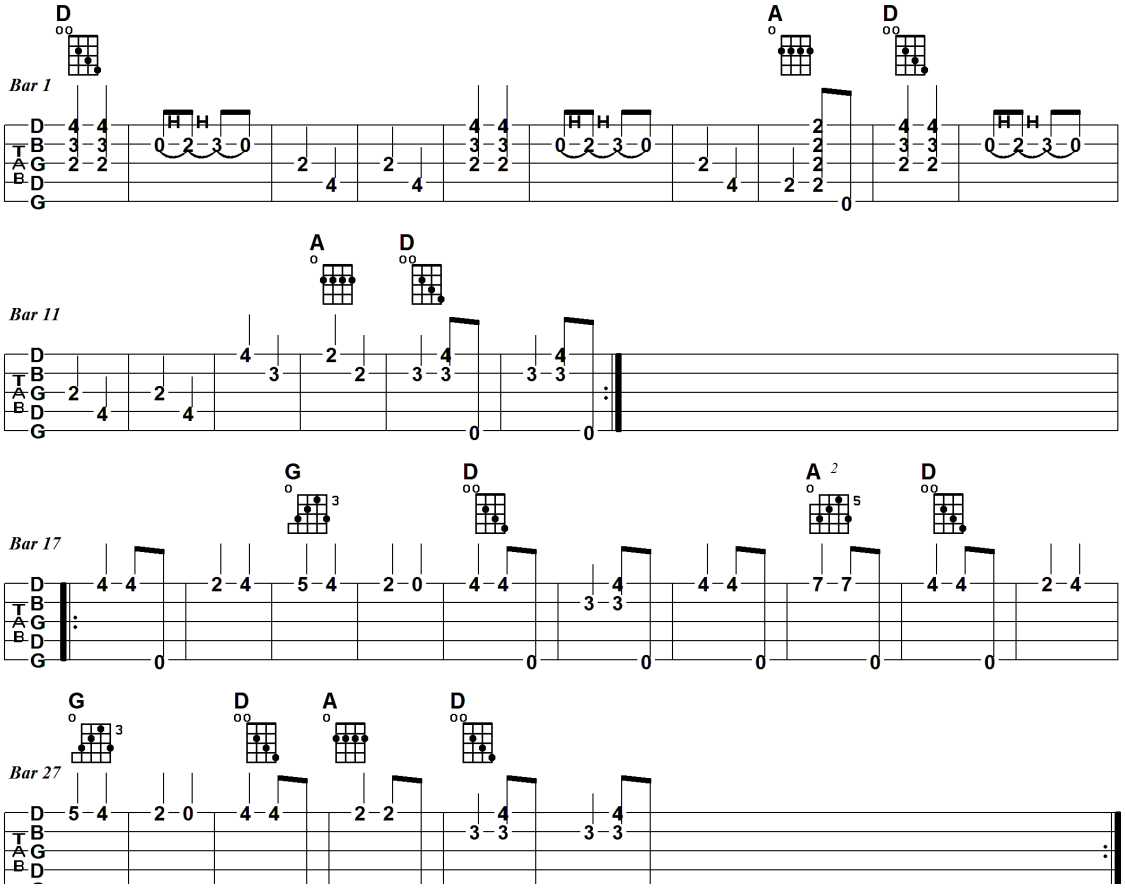
There is never a one of all your dead more bravely fell in fray
Than he who marches to his fate on the bridge of Toome today
To true the last, to true the last he treads the upward way
And young Roddy McCorley goes to die on the bridge of Toome today

Sean Ryan's Polka

2/4 Key of D

One of the most fun polkas to ever be played on a banjo!
The two D chords should be played quickly and dramatically.

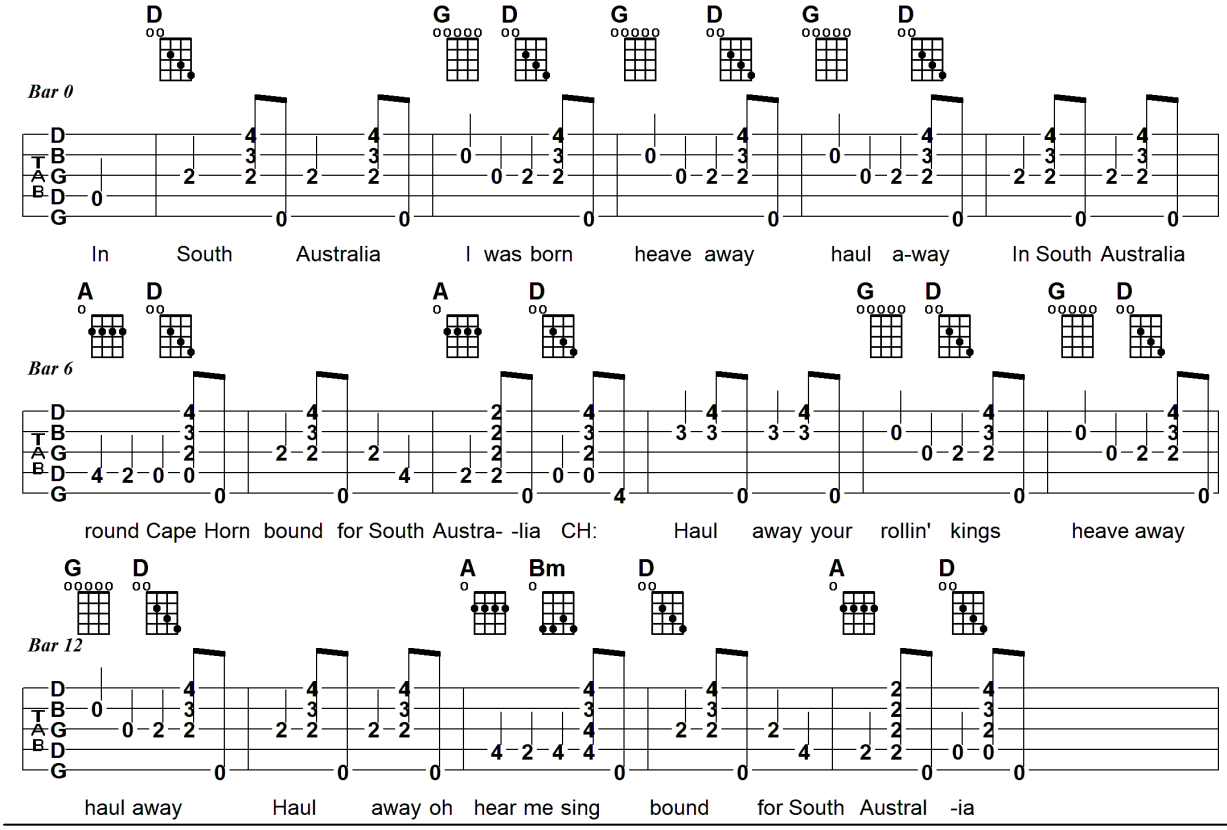
The trick to the 2nd, 6th and 10th bars is to hit the open string once at the start of the measure, hammer on twice and then strike the open string again.



South Australia

4/4 Key of D

It's not a complete night without a song about the boys from Down Under!


D G D G D G D
Bar 0
In South Australia I was born heave away haul a-way In South Australia
A D A D G D G D
Bar 6
round Cape Horn bound for South Austra- -lia CH: Haul away your rollin' kings heave away
G D A Bm D A D
Bar 12
haul away Haul away oh hear me sing bound for South Austral -ia

As I walked out one morning fair, heave away, haul away
Twas there I met Miss Nancy Blair, bound for South Australia

I shook her up, I shook her down, heave away, haul away
I shook her all around the town, bound for South Australia

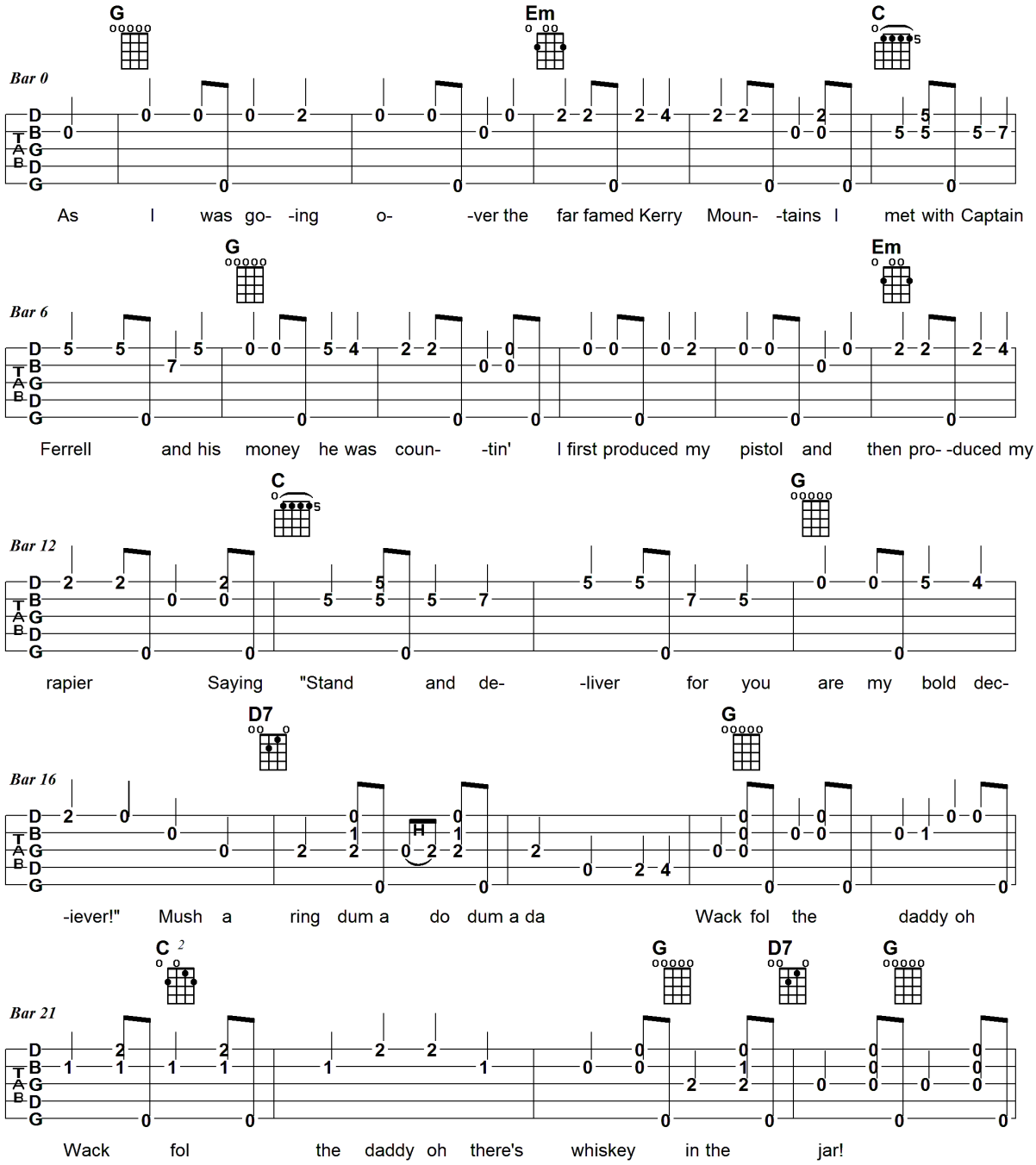
There ain't but one thing grieves me mind, heave away, haul away
To leave Miss Nancy Blair behind, bound for South Australia

As we wallop around Cape Horn, heave away, haul away
You'll with to God, you'd never been born, bound for South Australia

Whiskey in the Jar

4/4 Key of G

The absolute best Highwayman song in the world!


G
Em
C
Bar 0
As I was go- -ing o- -ver the far famed Kerry Moun- -tains I met with Captain
G
Em
Bar 6
Ferrell and his money he was coun- -tin' I first produced my pistol and then pro- -duced my
C
G
Bar 12
rapier Saying "Stand and de- -liver for you are my bold dec-
D7
G
Bar 16
-iever!" Mush a ring dum a do dum a da Wack fol the daddy oh
C 2
G
D7
G
Bar 21
Wack fol the daddy oh there's whiskey in the jar!

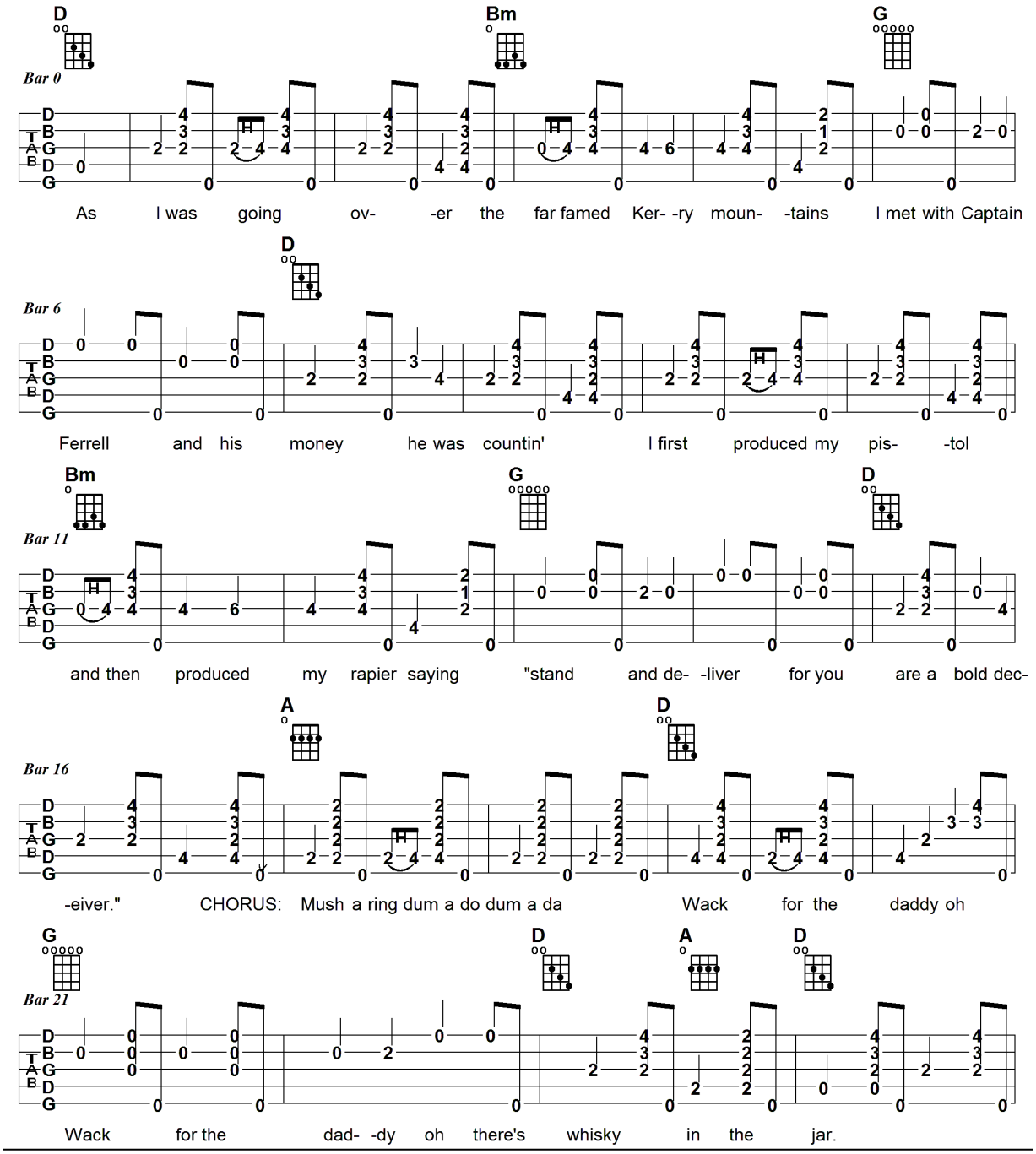
I counted out his money and it made a pretty penny, I put it in my pocket and I took it home to Jenny,
She sighed and she swore that she never would deceive me,
But the devil take the women for they never can be easy.

I went into my chamber all for to take a slumber,
I dreamed of Gold and jewels and for sure it was no wonder,
But Jenny drew my charges and she filled them up with water,
And sent for Captain Farrell to be ready for the slaughter,

Whiskey in the Jar

4/4 Key of D

The absolute best Highwayman song in the world!


D
Bm
G
Bar 0
As I was going ov- -er the far famed Ker- -ry moun- -tains I met with Captain
D
Bar 6
Ferrell and his money he was countin' I first produced my pis- -tol
Bm
G
D
Bar 11
and then produced my rapier saying "stand and de- -liver for you are a bold dec-
A
D
Bar 16
-eiver." CHORUS: Mush a ring dum a do dum a da Wack for the daddy oh
G
D
A
D
Bar 21
Wack for the dad- -dy oh there's whisky in the jar.

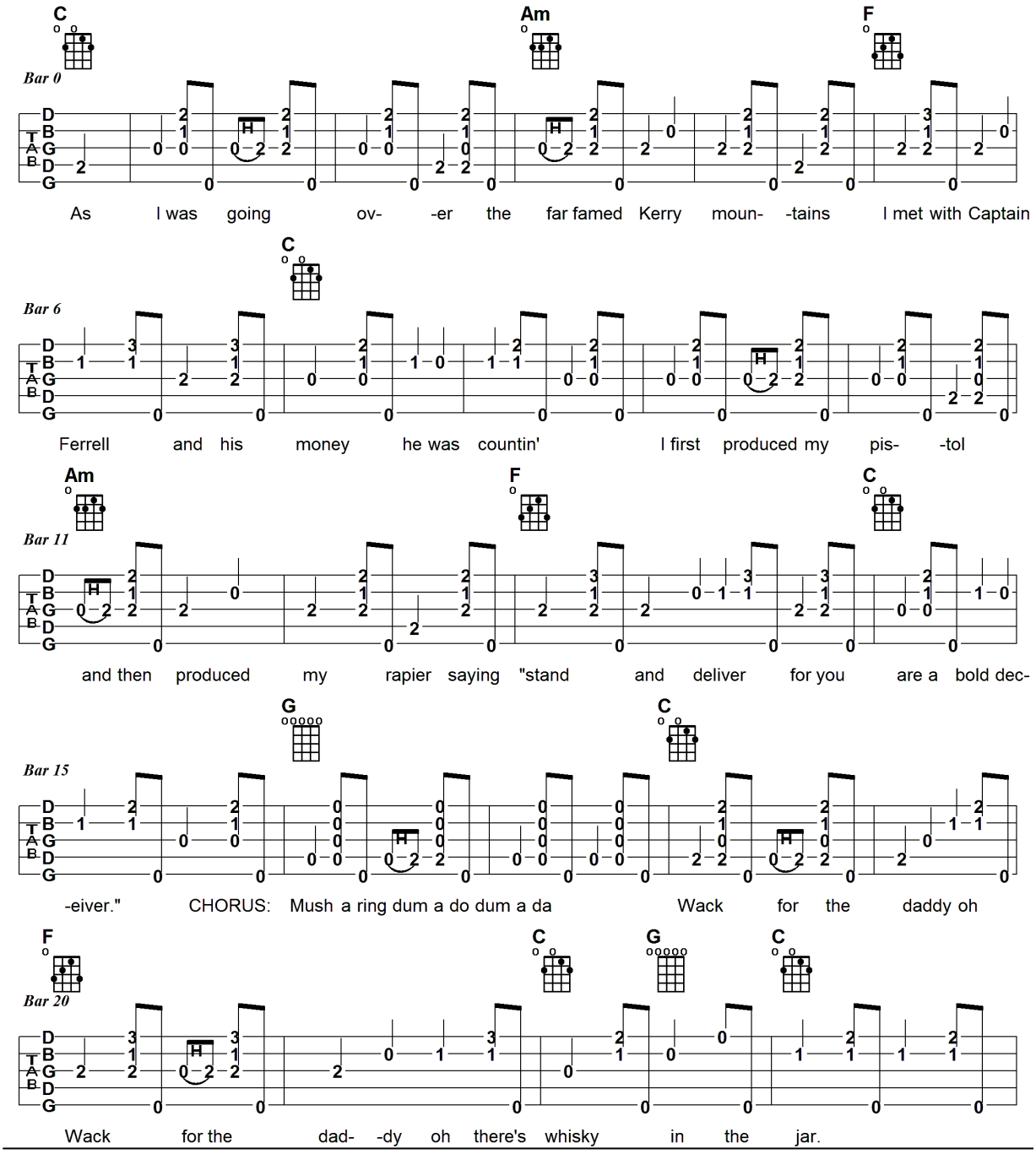
T'was early in the morning just before I rose to travel,
Up comes a band of footmen and likewise Captain Farrell,
I first produced my pistol for she'd stolen away my rapier,
But I couldn't shoot the water so a prisoner I was taken.

They put me into jail with a judge or writing
For robbing Colonel Farrell on the far famed Kerry Mountains
They didn't take me fists, so I knocked the sentry down

Whiskey in the Jar

4/4 Key of C

The absolute best Highwayman song in the world!


C
Am
F
Bar 0
As I was going ov- -er the far famed Kerry moun- -tains I met with Captain
C
Bar 6
Ferrell and his money he was countin' I first produced my pis- -tol
Am
F
C
Bar 11
and then produced my rapier saying "stand and deliver for you are a bold dec-
G
C
Bar 15
-eiver." CHORUS: Mush a ring dum a do dum a da Wack for the daddy oh
F
C
G
C
Bar 20
Wack for the dad- -dy oh there's whisky in the jar.

If anyone can aid me it's my brother in the army,
If I can find his station in Cork or in Killarney,
And if he'll go with me we'll go roving in Kilkenny,
And I'm sur he'll treat me better than my own disporting Jenny.

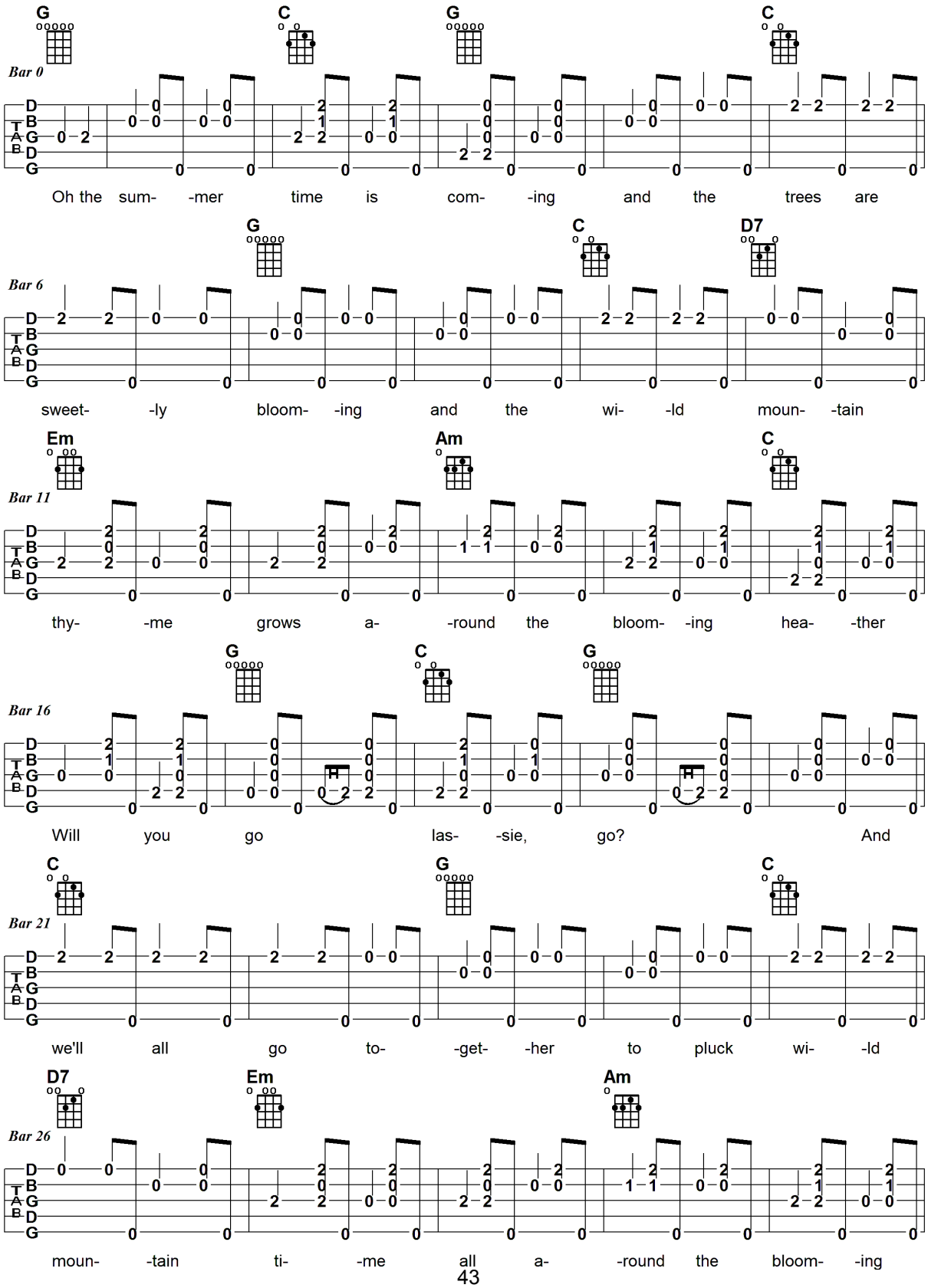
There's some take delight in the carriages a rollin',
And others take delight in the hurlin' and the bowlin',
But I take delight in the juice of the barley
And courtin' pretty fair maids in the morning bright and early.

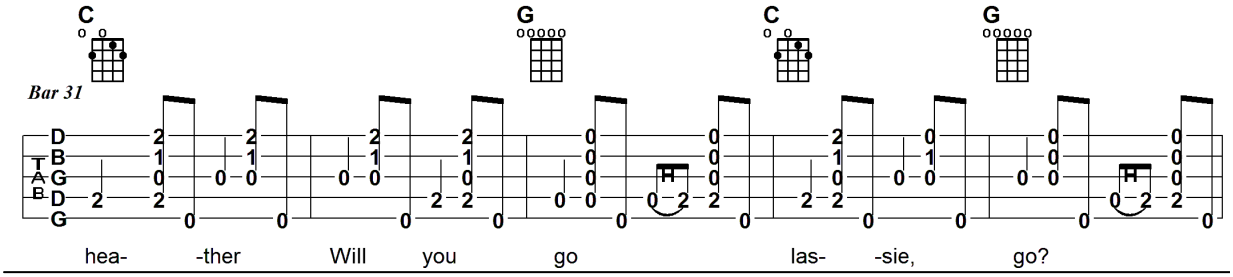
Castle Garden Stage

Will Ye Go Lassie, Go?

4/4 Key of G

Known also as Wild Mountain Thyme, it has a very singable chorus.


G C G C
Bar 0
Oh the sum- -mer time is com- -ing and the trees are
G C D7
Bar 6
sweet- -ly bloom- -ing and the wi- -ld moun- -tain
Em Am C
Bar 11
thy- -me grows a- -round the bloom- -ing hea- -ther
G C G
Bar 16
Will you go las- -sie, go? And
C G C
Bar 21
we'll all go to- -get- -her to pluck wi- -ld
D7 Em Am
Bar 26
moun- -tain ti- -me all a- -round the bloom- -ing



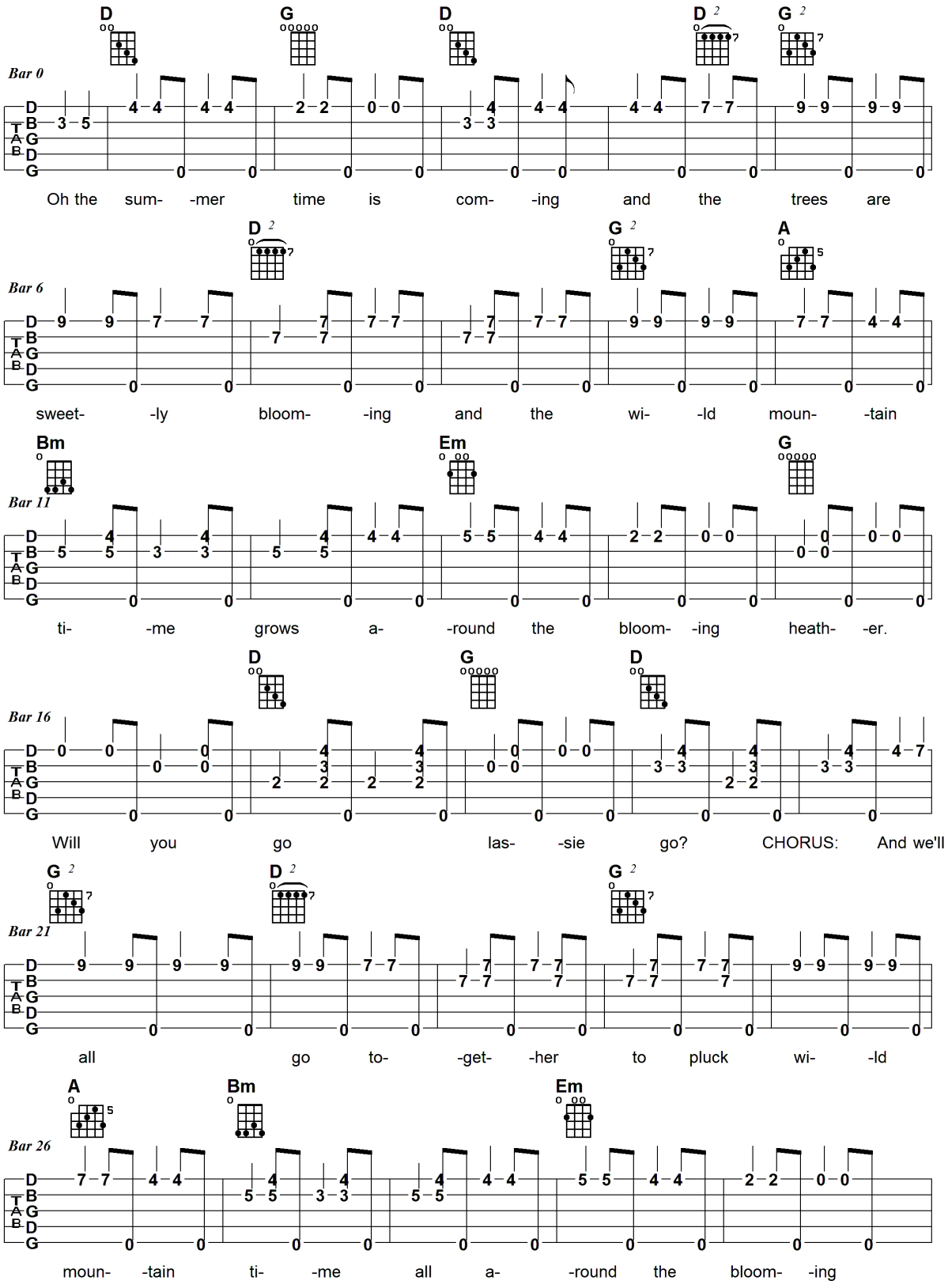
I will build my love a tower
By yon' pure crystal fountain
And on it I will build
All the flowers of the mountain
Will ye go, Lassie go?

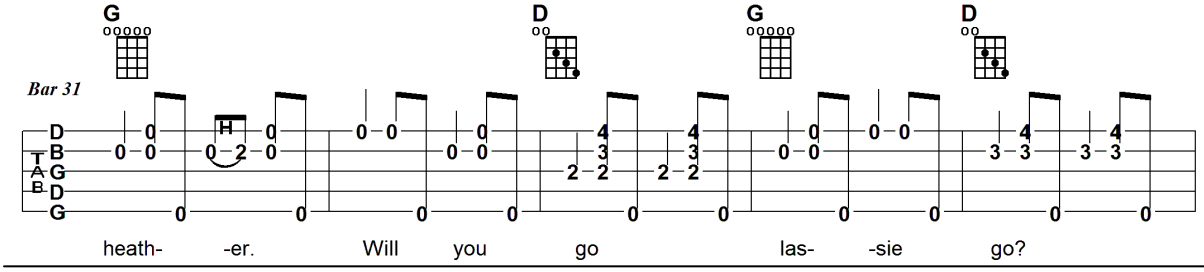
If my true love she were gone
I would surely find another
To pull wild mountain thyme
All around the blooming heather
Will ye go, Lassie go?

Will Ye Go Lassie, Go?

4/4 Key of D

Known also as Wild Mountain Thyme, it has a very singable chorus.


D G D D 2 G 2
Bar 0
Oh the sum- -mer time is com- -ing and the trees are
D 2 G 2 A
Bar 6
sweet- -ly bloom- -ing and the wi- -ld moun- -tain
Bm Em G
Bar 11
ti- -me grows a- -round the bloom- -ing heath- -er.
D G D
Bar 16
Will you go las- -sie go? CHORUS: And we'll
G 2 D 2 G 2
Bar 21
all go to- -get- -her to pluck wi- -ld
A Bm Em
Bar 26
moun- -tain ti- -me all a- -round the bloom- -ing



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Will Ye Go Lassie, Go?

4/4 Key of C

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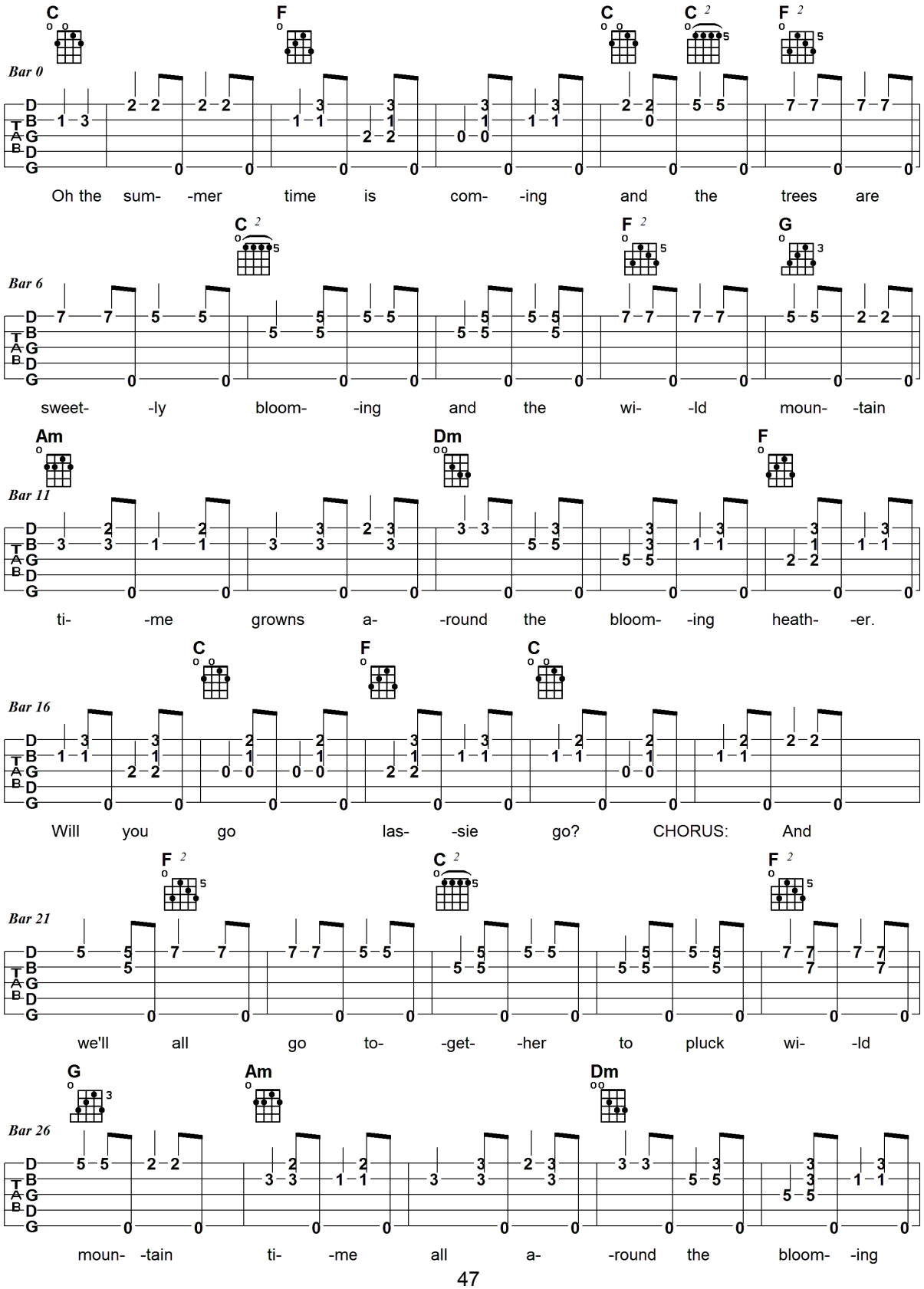
C F C C F
Bar 0
Oh the sum- -mer time is com- -ing and the trees are
C F G
Bar 6
sweet- -ly bloom- -ing and the wi- -ld moun- -tain
Am Dm F
Bar 11
ti- -me growns a- -round the bloom- -ing heath- -er.
C F C
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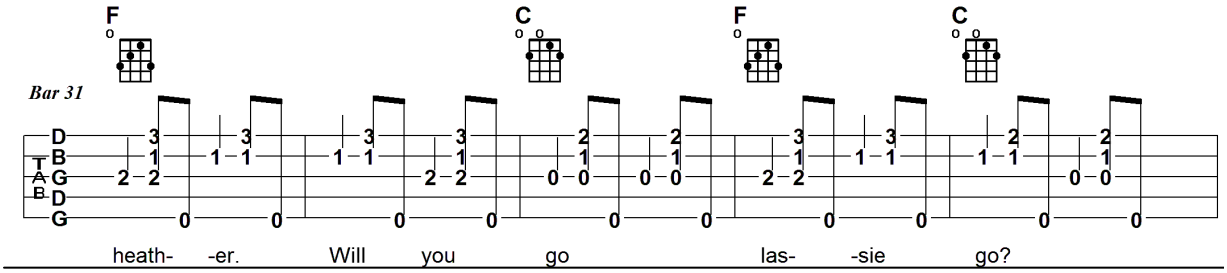

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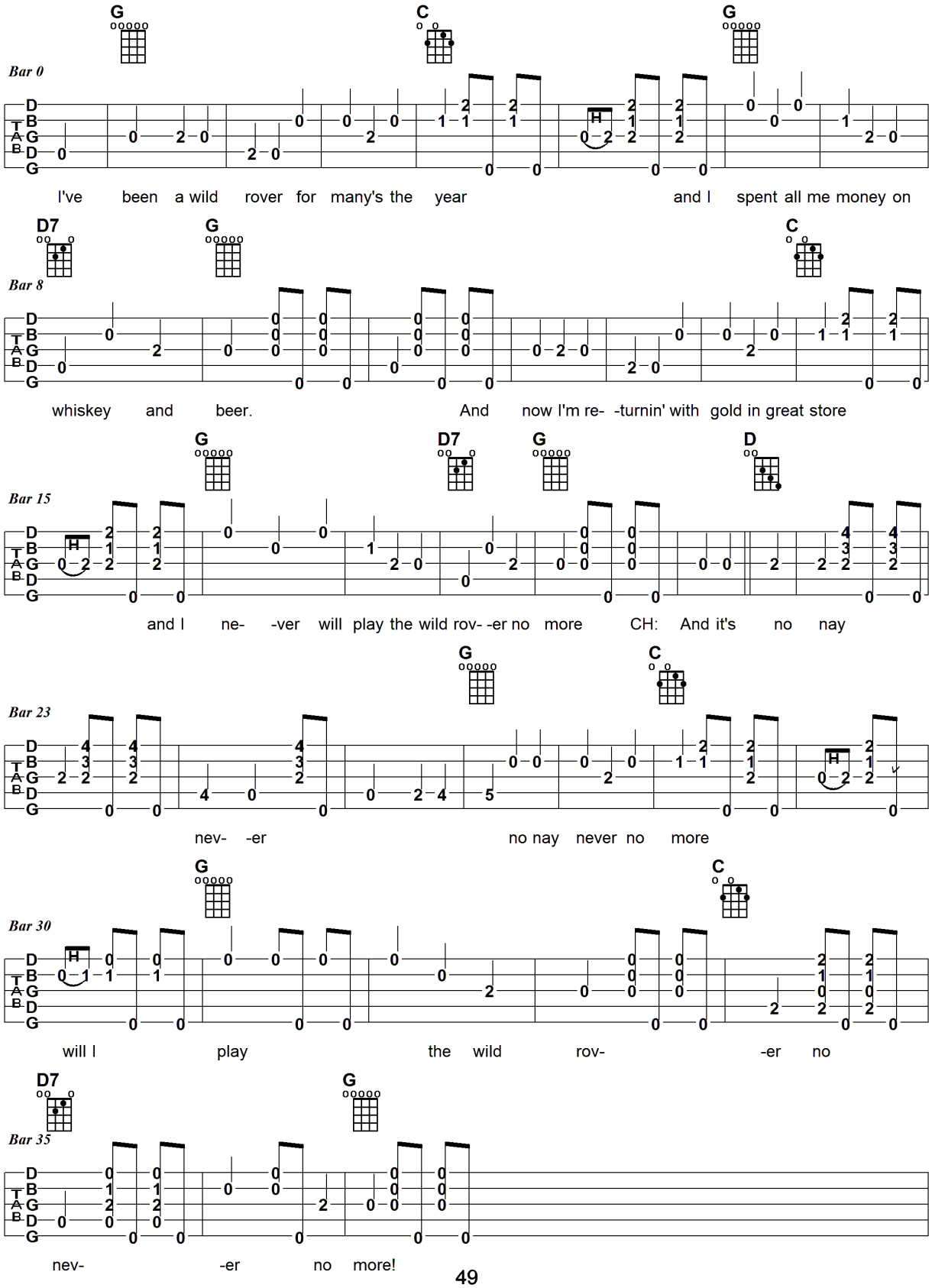
Wild Rover

3/4 Key of G

The Prodigal son returns and this is sure to get any crowd into a clapping mood!


G C G
Bar 0
I've been a wild rover for many's the year and I spent all me money on
D7 G C
Bar 8
whiskey and beer. And now I'm re- -turnin' with gold in great store
G D7 G D
Bar 15
and I ne- -ver will play the wild rov- -er no more CH: And it's no nay
G C
Bar 23
nev- -er no nay never no more
G C
Bar 30
will I play the wild rov- -er no
D7 G
Bar 35
nev- -er no more!

I went into an alehouse I used to frequent, and I told the landlady my money was spent,
I asked her for credit, she answered me "Nay, such a custom as yours I can have every day."

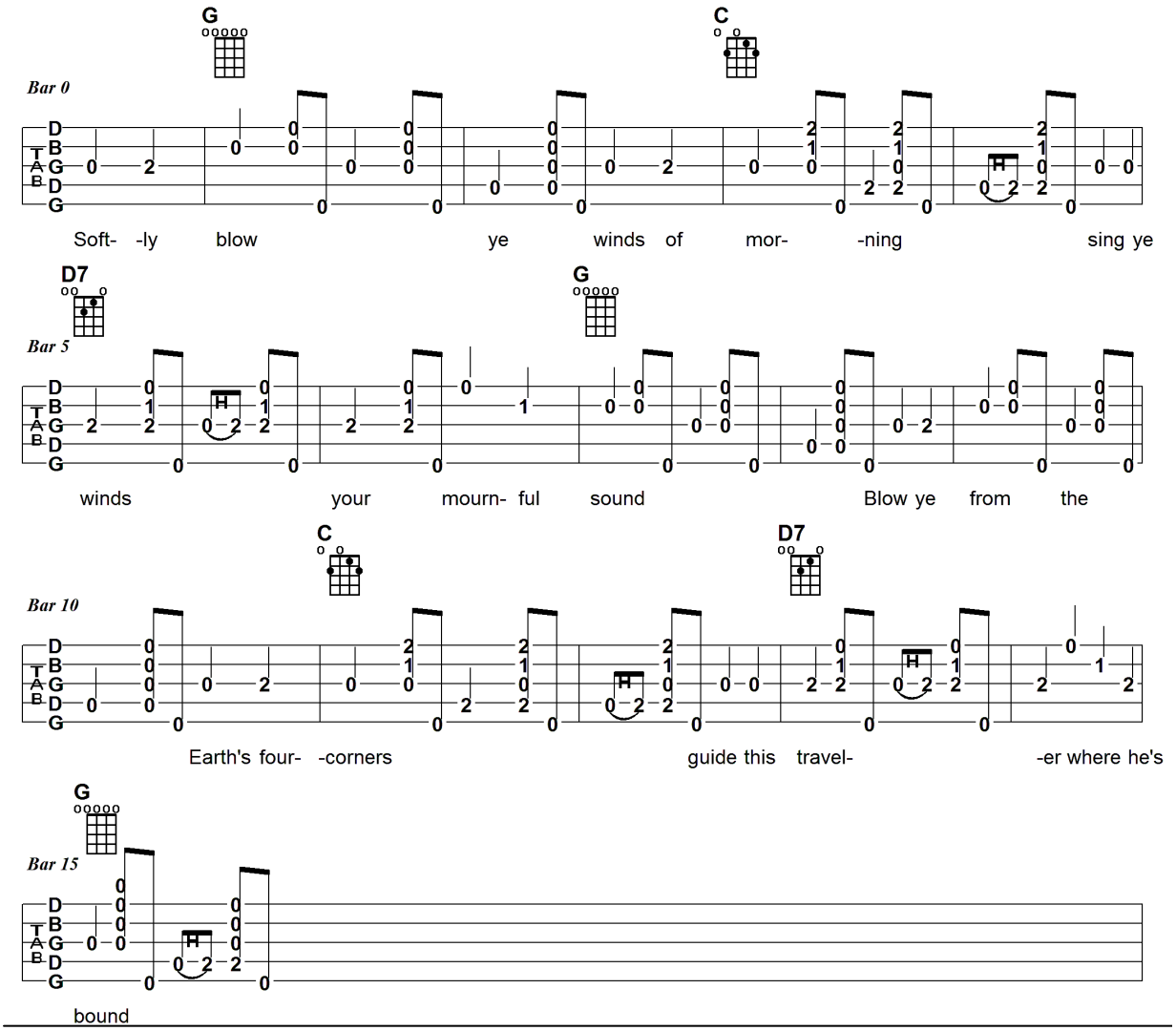
I then took from my pocket ten sovereigns bright, and the landlady's eyes opened wide with delight,
She says, "I have whiskies and wines of the best, and the words that I told you were only in jest."

I'll go home to my parents, confess what I've done, and I'll ask them to pardon their prodigal son,
And when they've caressed me as oft times before, then I never will play the wild rover no more.

Winds Of Morning

4/4 Key of G

Think of this as a Celtic, “This Land Is Your Land”



I've walked the hills when rain was falling Rested by a wide oak tree
Heard a lark sing high at evening. Caught a moonbeam on the sea

Softly blow ye winds of morning. Sing ye winds your mournful sound
Blow ye from the earth's four corners. Guide this traveler where he's bound

I've helped a ploughman tend his horses. Heard a rippling river sing
Talked to stars when night was falling. Seen a primrose welcome spring

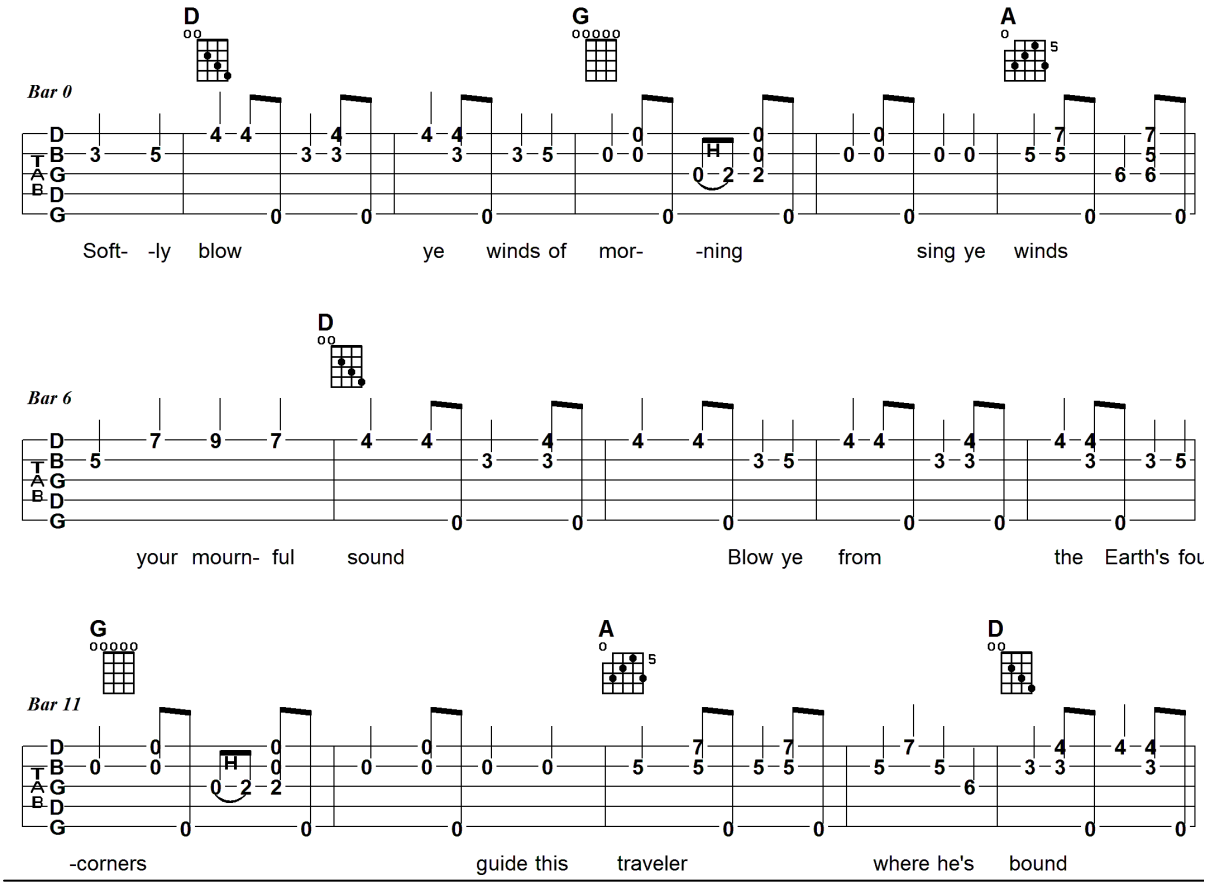
By foreign shores, my feet have wandered. Heard a stranger call me friend
Every time my mind was troubled. Found a smile around the bend

There's a ship stands in the harbor. All prepared to cross the foam
Far off hills were fair and friendly. Still there's fairer hills at home.

Winds Of Morning

4/4 Key of D

Think of this as a Celtic, “This Land Is Your Land”



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Winds Of Morning

4/4 Key of C

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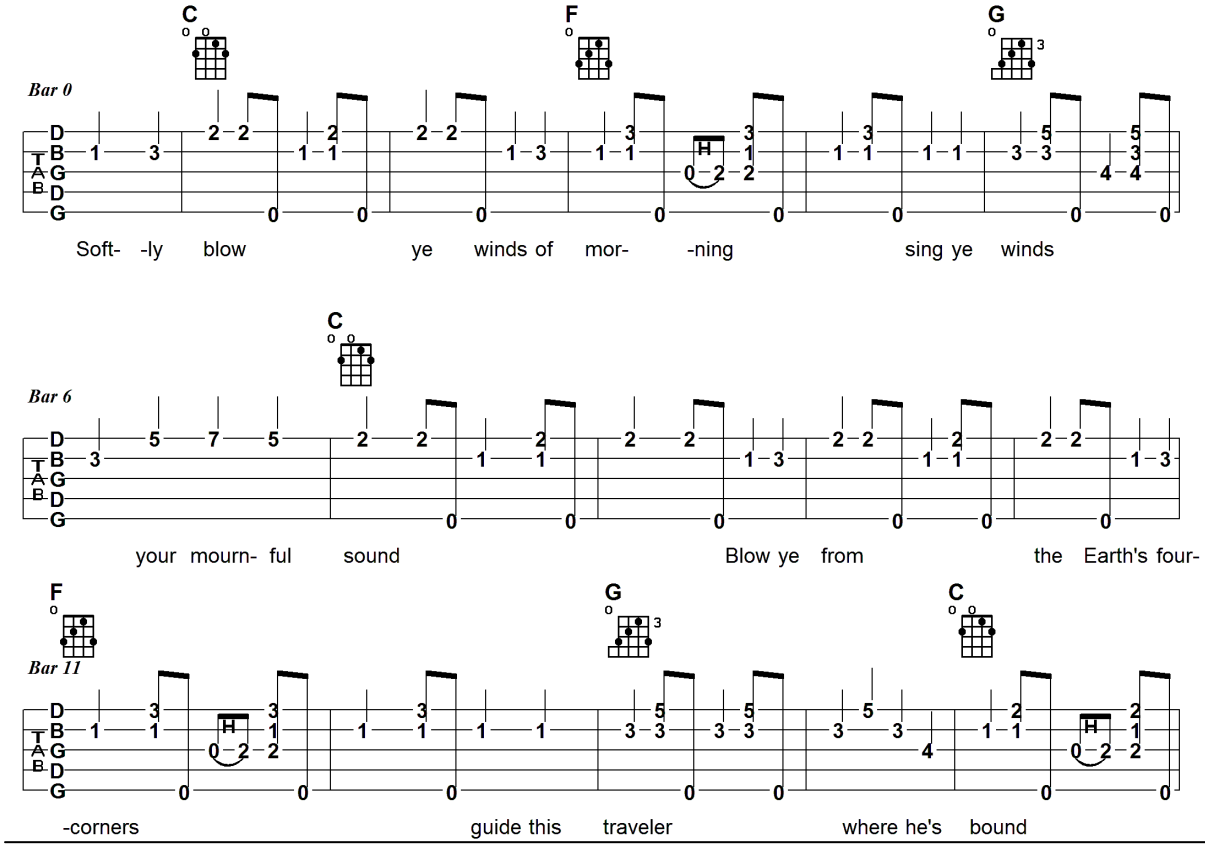

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About The Author

Kelly Griner lives in Bolingbrook, IL in the suburbs of Chicago. He shares his life with his wife Sandy, his niece Amber, and their cats under the benevolent dictatorship of Omega the orange tabby.

Kelly has been playing frailing banjo for over 10 years and enjoys helping others to learn the technique that has brought him so much joy. Kelly is the founding member of the Irish Pub Band, Another Pint and has performed throughout the Midwestern United States.

Kelly hosts a website dedicated to help others learn about frailing banjo for Irish Pub Songs and Folk Songs at http://BanjoMania.net.